United Nations S/PV.6994

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6994th meeting
Wednesday, 10 July 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Rutilo
	Australia	Ms. Hill
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Ms. Jiang Hua
	France	Mr. Araud
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Munir
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Sana
	Togo	Mr. Kadangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2013/381)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-38758 (E)

Accessible document

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2013/381)

The President: Under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Lebanon to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/381, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf.

"The Security Council has been briefed by the Special Coordinator for Lebanon and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations following the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

"The Security Council recalls all its previous resolutions and the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon.

"The Security Council is encouraged by the calm that continues to prevail across the Blue Line and in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's (UNIFIL) area of operations. It urges all parties to make every effort to ensure that the cessation of hostilities is sustained, and emphasizes the need for them to continue working with the Special Coordinator and UNIFIL, including through the tripartite mechanism, to focus again on the goal of a permanent ceasefire and to reflect positively on ways forward on all outstanding issues in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006), 1680 (2006), and 1559 (2004) and other relevant Security Council resolutions. The Council also recalls the necessity for all parties to ensure the security of the contributing troops and that the freedom of movement of UNIFIL is fully respected and unimpeded.

"The Security Council expresses deep concern at all violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and calls on all parties to fully respect Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence within its internationally recognized borders, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

"As the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon's stability and security becomes more and more apparent, the Security Council underscores its growing concern at the marked increase of cross-border fire from the Syrian Arab Republic into Lebanon, which caused death and injury among the Lebanese population, as well as incursions, abductions and arms trafficking across the Lebanese-Syrian border. The Security Council also expresses its concern at all other border violations. The Security Council echoes President Michel Sleiman's protest, in his letter of 19 June 2013, at such repeated shelling from the conflicting parties, including by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces and Syrian armed opposition groups, that violate Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"The Security Council further notes with deep concern new developments with regard to the involvement of Lebanese parties in the fighting in Syria. The Security Council calls upon all Lebanese parties to recommit to Lebanon's policy of disassociation, to stand united behind President Michel Sleiman in this regard and to step back from any involvement in the Syrian crisis, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda Declaration of 12 June 2012. The Security Council further echoes President Sleiman's call on the parties in Syria to avoid military action near the Lebanese border.

"In the face of attempts to undermine the country's stability, the Security Council encourages all parties in Lebanon to demonstrate renewed unity and determination to resist a slide into conflict, commends in this regard the continued efforts of President Michel Sleiman to preserve Lebanon's unity and stability, and underlines that continued broad political support is needed for the institutions of the State.

"The Security Council urges all parties in Lebanon to continue to engage with Prime Minister-designate Tammam Salam so as to allow the urgent formation of a government. The Security Council further encourages all Lebanese leaders to resume efforts to agree arrangements for parliamentary elections, consistent with Lebanon's long-standing democratic tradition and in conformity with the legal and constitutional framework.

"The Security Council also stresses the need to support the security and judicial authorities so as to combat impunity in respect of acts of violence. It also recalls the need to put an end to impunity in Lebanon, reiterates its full support for the work of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and urges the Lebanese authorities to continue meeting their international obligations in this regard, including on financial matters. The Council calls upon all parties to fully cooperate with the Tribunal.

"The Security Council also condemns recent violence by armed groups across Lebanon, including those in Tripoli and Sidon, the latter of which left at least 16 soldiers dead and over 50 others wounded, and expresses condolences to the families of the victims. The Security Council also acknowledges the crucial role played by the Lebanese security and armed forces in extending and sustaining the authority of the State and responding to new security challenges. The Council calls on Lebanon's leaders across the whole spectrum and Lebanese of all communities to offer every possible support to the Lebanese Armed Forces as a national and neutral institution and central pillar of the country's stability.

"The Security Council is gravely concerned at the dramatic influx of refugees fleeing violence in Syria, now totalling over 587,000 Syrian refugees and an additional 65,500 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The Council commends Lebanon's generous efforts in hosting and assisting those refugees and encourages the establishment of fully empowered institutional structures to carry out planning, delivery and coordination responsibilities.

"The Security Council stresses the need for strong, coordinated international support for Lebanon to help it continue to withstand the multiple current challenges to its security and stability. It encourages increased international support to the Lebanese Armed Forces in response to their recently launched capabilities development plan, as well as in the context of the strategic dialogue between the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL. It notes the particular urgency of assistance which would strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces' capabilities with respect to border control.

"As for the refugee crisis, the Security Council underlines the need for assistance on an unprecedented scale, both to meet the needs of the refugees and of host communities, and to assist the Lebanese authorities who face extraordinary financial and structural challenges as a result of the refugee influx. The Council calls in this regard upon the international community to provide the required assistance as swiftly as possible to the latest joint appeal of the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon, and in this regard urges those Member States which committed themselves to providing funds to live up to their pledges."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2013/9.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6995

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6995th meeting
Wednesday, 10 July 2013, 10.15 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Rattilo
	Australia	Ms. Hill
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Ms. Jiang Hua
	France	Mr. Araud
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Sana
	Togo	Mr. Kadangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2013/384)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-38790 (E)

Accessible document

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2013/384)

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2013/384, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

I now give the floor to Mr. Djinnit.

Mr. Djinnit: I have the honour to introduce the eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2013 (S/2013/384). I will also seize this opportunity to update the Council on the most recent developments in the subregion.

Since my last briefing to the Security Council, on 25 January 2013 (see S/PV.6911), the West African subregion has continued to face multiple political and security challenges, including election-related tensions in a number of countries, transnational organized crime, piracy and terrorist activities cutting across the entire subregion. The humanitarian situation in the subregion continued to be characterized by food insecurity and malnutrition in the face of dwindling funding.

In addressing these challenges, the leaders of the subregion have continued to display great commitment in working collectively to enhance security and promote peace and stability within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional organizations, such as the Mano River Union (MRU). In addition to the commendable efforts made by ECOWAS and its leaders to address the crises in Mali and Guinea-Bissau, the regional organization has been promoting peaceful solutions to disputes among its member States. As a result, a number of border disputes between ECOWAS member States have been resolved or are being addressed through peaceful means.

On the situation in Mali, UNOWA has worked closely with ECOWAS, the United Nations Office in Mali and the defunct African-led International Support Mission in Mali, and subsequently with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), to promote political dialogue in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions and with the outcome of the support and follow-up group meeting held in Bamako on 19 April. It was the combination of all these efforts and the collaborative work done under the leadership of President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso — with the support of President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria, the High Representative of the African Union, former President Pierre Buyoya, and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Koenders — that led to the signing, in Ouagadougou on 18 June, of the preliminary agreement on the presidential elections and inclusive peace talks in Mali. The agreement provides for a commitment on the part of the signatories to dialogue and negotiation as a means of resolving the conflict in the northern regions of Mali. It also provides for the presidential election to take place in July, to be followed by an inclusive political process for a comprehensive and durable settlement of the conflict.

Looking forward, UNOWA shall continue to lend its full support to MINUSMA and to the collective efforts to mobilize regional support for the stabilization of Mali. We will continue to extend similar support to the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau as it pursues its efforts to help stabilize Guinea-Bissau under the leadership of Special Representative of the Secretary-General José Ramos-Horta, in cooperation with ECOWAS, the African Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, building on the recent efforts towards inclusive governance and the holding of the presidential election.

In Guinea, an agreement was reached on 3 July between the parties, providing for a consensual election timetable for the holding of the legislative election in September. The agreement has thus paved the way for the holding of free, transparent and inclusive legislative elections that would allow, at last, all the energies of

the Government and the people of that country to be geared towards socioeconomic transformation and development.

I seize this occasion to thank the Security Council and the Guinea configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the African Union, ECOWAS, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the European Union and bilateral partners of Guinea, for the support they have extended to me and my colleagues, the national facilitators, in our efforts aimed at restoring dialogue and promoting an agreement between the parties.

However, funding is a major challenge to the timely implementation of the agreement. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to urge the bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea to make financial contributions to assist the country in meeting the additional costs caused by the successive delays in the electoral timetable due to the lack of consensus on the electoral process and especially the recent delay generated by the agreement reached among the parties on 3 July. The agreement brought an end to months of differences between the presidential coalition and the opposition, and political tensions on issues related to the electoral process. In the context of the demonstrations organized by the opposition, serious incidents of violence erupted that led to a number of casualties, the destruction of property and loss of life that threatened social and national cohesion. We look forward to the outcome of the investigations that have been ordered by the Government as part of its commitment to the rule of law and the fight against impunity.

The positive outcome of the dialogue process in Guinea was welcomed with relief in the Mano River region, which remains fragile, as illustrated by the persistent tensions along the borders between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and with other neighbouring countries. These transborder threats continue to undermine the stability and long-term development efforts of the countries of the Mano River Union, in spite of their great potential for economic development and growth.

In an effort to assist the region to address the challenges posed to their common security, UNOWA, in liaison with ECOWAS and the Mano River Union, convened in Dakar, on 29 June, a high-level meeting to launch the process of developing a security strategy for the Mano River Union, as requested by the Security Council. The meeting agreed that the strategy should aim at addressing cross-border threats to peace and stability in the Mano River region, and should be based on a comprehensive approach that takes into account the nexus between security and development, building on the existing initiatives in the region. It was decided to establish a steering committee composed of the three organizations that will spearhead the development of the strategy by the end of 2013. During the meeting, the Ministers from the four countries and their regional organizations, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union, demonstrated a strong commitment to joining their efforts to strengthen security and decided to own the process leading to the adoption of the proposed strategy.

(*spoke in French*)

Piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea are another regional threat to the security of West African countries. This phenomenon is negatively affecting international maritime trade in the area and has the potential to take a long-term toll on the economic development of coastal and landlocked countries. In order to address this increasing threat, the United Nations, through its Offices in West Africa and Central Africa, assisted the concerned regional organizations in convening a regional summit on piracy, as requested by the Security Council in its resolutions 2018 (2011) and 2039 (2012).

The resolve of the leaders of the region to establish a framework to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea was crystallized at the summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECOWAS and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea, held on 24 and 25 June in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The summit adopted three key strategic documents: a code of conduct for the prevention and punishment of acts of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in Central and West Africa; a memorandum of understanding between ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea on maritime security and safety in Central and West Africa; and, lastly, a political declaration. It was further agreed that ECCAS, ECOWAS, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations Office for West Africa, along with the Government of Cameroon, would work together to develop a programme of action on maritime security.

The third fragile zone in West Africa, besides the Mano River Union and the Gulf of Guinea, is the

Sahel, as the crisis in Mali has shown. The region has a significant number of vulnerability indicators, including environmental degradation, desertification, food insecurity, arms and drug trafficking and terrorism. That fragility underscores the urgency of the need for an integrated United Nations strategy for the Sahel aimed at complementing the efforts of the countries of the region and regional organizations to address the root causes of instability along the Sahel-Sahara belt and their consequences. That vision emerged clearly in the discussions with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Mr. Prodi, whom I accompanied on joint visits to various countries in the subregion. The United Nations Regional Office for West Africa, which very early on launched efforts to promote a concerted United Nations approach to the Sahel, and which has subsequently played an important part, along with the other United Nations entities, in preparing the Sahel strategy, will naturally assume a share of the responsibility for implementing it.

Despite the commendable efforts of the ECOWAS leadership to respond to the challenges posed by transnational threats to peace and security, as manifested in the crises in Mali and Guinea-Bissau, those threats have nonetheless continued to spread through West Africa. In that regard, the ECOWAS summit's recent adoption of a counter-terrorism strategy and renewal of its regional plan of action against drug trafficking and organized crime are unquestionably encouraging developments that must now be translated into concrete action, with the support of the international community. The attacks on several places in Niger on 23 May made by the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, along with the continued activity of terrorist groups such as Boko Haram and Ansaru, emphasized yet again the complexity of the trans-border challenges posed by extremist groups and terrorist organizations in the subregion. Such groups take advantage of porous borders and the inadequate means and capacities of States in the subregion.

The widely condemned terrorist attack of 6 July on a school in Yobe state in Nigeria, which resulted in the deaths of 42 innocent people, including students, at a time when the state of emergency in that region is still in force, clearly demonstrates the terrorist groups' determination to spread terror and despair, and at the same time underscores the complexity of the problem. The avowed synergy between the terrorist groups operating in the subregion calls for concerted, region-wide action in order to deal with this threat. Such action should also address the underlying causes of instability, while, of course, taking into account the human rights aspects.

During my visit to Abuja on 10 and 11 June, I stressed how strongly the United Nations condemns the terrorist acts that have been perpetrated in Nigeria and our solidarity with its people and Government. I assured the authorities of the firm commitment and support of the United Nations for Nigeria's unity, stability and sovereignty, and expressed our willingness to increase our support for capacity-building in the areas of counter-terrorism, human rights and the management of disasters and humanitarian emergencies. I also encouraged them to continue to promote regional cooperation in addressing such transnational threats within the framework of existing regional and international counter-terrorism mechanisms.

The challenge posed by tensions related to elections and the negative impact arising from the lack of governance and regulation of security forces in some countries remain a source of concern in West Africa. Regarding electoral tensions, the United Nations Office for West Africa, together with the relevant country teams, continues to provide assistance through its good offices, aimed at creating conditions conducive to holding calm elections, as in the case of Guinea. In that regard, I should commend the efforts led by Bishop Barrigah in Togo, with the support of the Group of Five, aimed at facilitating a dialogue between the Togolese Government and the opposition in the run-up to the forthcoming legislature elections at the end of the month; in fact, I believe the date has been fixed for 25 July.

Moreover, the United Nations Office for West Africa continues to work closely with ECOWAS and the Mano River Union by supporting their efforts to develop regional frameworks aimed at supporting security sector reforms at the regional and national levels. In that regard, I should note that the process of security sector reform in Guinea has been making significant progress, supported by the United Nations and the personal involvement of President Alpha Condé. I should emphasize here that several other countries in the subregion are also working on security sector reform, particularly Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone.

Before concluding, I would like to call the Security Council's attention to the promising confidence-building process that the United Nations has been leading on the

issue of demarcating the boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria. Significant progress has been made in the boundary demarcation between the two countries and the follow-up process of the Greentree Agreement on the Bakassi peninsula will soon come to an end. In fact, in September the Greentree Agreement Follow-up Committee should hold its final meeting on the margins of the General Assembly right here in New York, where the Secretary-General and the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria launched the process in 2006.

West Africa, which more than ever stands at a crossroads in its quest for peace and security, deserves greater attention from the United Nations. In that regard, I am encouraged by the commitment shown by ECOWAS, under the leadership of its Chairman, President Alassane Outtara of Côte d'Ivoire, and the Chairman of the ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo, to strengthening their architecture for peace and security, drawing lessons from the challenges that have been encountered in the regional response to the crisis in Mali. My colleagues of the United Nations Office for West Africa and I remain committed to building on the valuable partnership we have created with the other United Nations entities in the subregion, ECOWAS and other continental and regional organizations, including the African Union and the Mano River Union, with the aim of promoting and consolidating peace and stability in West Africa.

In that context, we will continue to encourage the dialogue process as the best way to settle conflicts and differences. We will also continue our efforts to mobilize international partnerships to tackle, through their support of regional and national stakeholders, the underlying causes of instability in the region, and to address the recent transnational threats in a concerted way. West African leaders and their regional institutions, particularly ECOWAS, know that they can continue to rely on the continued attention and support of the United Nations and its Security Council for their efforts to promote lasting peace, stability and development in the subregion.

The President: I thank Mr. Djinnit for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussions on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6996

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 July 2013

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 6996th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 July 2013, at 3 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 10 July 2013, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 6996th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

"Members of the Council, Mr. Mulet and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views."

13-38921 (E) 100713

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United Nations S/PV.6997

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 July 2013

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 6997th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 July 2013, at 3.50 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 10 July 2013, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 6997th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Buttenheim and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views."

13-38915 (E) 110713

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United Nations S/PV.6998

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6998th meeting
Thursday, 11 July 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Mr. Maes
	Morocco	Mr. Kadiri
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2013/366)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-38951 (E)

Accessible document

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2013/366)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of South Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2013/404, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/366, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, France, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Morocco, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2109 (2013).

I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Deng (South Sudan): I am very honoured to be addressing the Council for the second time within days and at a time that coincides with the second anniversary of our independence.

The Republic of South Sudan reiterates its appreciation to the Security Council for its continued support for our country, once again reflected in the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for another year. The Republic of South Sudan recognizes that it faces enormous challenges in building institutions, improving the rule of law, providing basic services, combating corruption, protecting civilians and promoting internal peace and security. We are strongly committed to improving our performance in all of these areas, but it will take time.

Through the continued development of our fiscal systems and establishing zero tolerance of corruption, the Government of South Sudan is also dedicated to realigning its priorities and implementing its vision for long-term development. This vision prioritizes developing the agricultural, mining and non-mining sectors, as well as fast-tracking infrastructure development to support improvements in education, health care and the provision of clean water to the people of South Sudan.

In a strongly worded speech commemorating the second anniversary of our independence, President Salva Kiir Mayardit highlighted some of the achievements of the Government over the past two years. Specifically, he enumerated several important pieces of legislation that the Government had recently enacted, including the ratification of eight international human rights treaties and conventions, the Right of Access Bill, the Media Authority Bill and the Information and Broadcasting Bill. It is our hope that these laws will provide the basis for greater respect for freedom of expression and send a clear signal about the kind of society that we wish to foster.

We are aware of the security and human rights challenges facing our country. As President Salva Kiir Mayardit has often stated, our stand on human rights is inherent in our liberation struggle, which lasted half a century. The struggle was essentially a fight against discrimination, marginalization, exclusion, denial of rights, and human indignity. Universal human rights, reinforced by positive elements in our cultural values, are at the core of the legacy of our liberation struggle. I should say that we are contending for elections to the Human Rights Council, and if elected we hope to contribute on the basis of our experience, but also to learn lessons that we can apply back home and to seek and obtain the technical and material support we need to address the human rights challenges facing us.

At present, we recognize that there is a gap between our aspirations to and achievement of security and respect for human rights, which can be attributed to the negative legacy of a long and devastating conflict that has left our people traumatized, militarized and heavily

armed. We are determined to address these issues with the help of our friends and international partners.

The Government remains especially concerned by the situation in Jonglei, which presents a challenge to our ability to discharge our primary responsibility for the protection of our civilians. President Kiir has once again repeated his call on David Yau Yau and his followers to put down their arms and join the process of building our infant nation.

We welcome the Council's concern about this situation and further welcome its encouragement to UNMISS to geographically reconfigure its military deployment so as to focus on volatile, high-risk areas and associated protection requirements. We are also fully aware of the importance of addressing the underlying causes of inter-communal violence in Jonglei and elsewhere, and remain confident that UNMISS will continue to assist our country in developing the rule of law and implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

As South Sudan establishes itself as an independent country and consolidates peace and stability, our Government is aware that we live in a volatile region facing major challenges. We are reminded on a daily basis of our common interest in regional stability, given the detrimental effect that even internal conflicts can have on all of our countries and peoples. We therefore commit ourselves to working with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Republic of Sudan to consolidate peace in our region. We are pleased that resolution 2109 (2013), just adopted by the Council, continues to emphasize the need for greater cooperation among peacekeeping operations in our region.

I cannot stress sufficiently that the consolidation of peace and stability in South Sudan also requires the full implementation of resolutions relating to other challenges in our region. It is particularly imperative that the final status of Abyei be resolved. This requires the holding of a referendum, as agreed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and endorsed by the Council.

The ongoing conflict in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan regions of the Republic of the Sudan also challenges relations between our two States, not only by weakening trust and the historical bonds between us, but also by causing enormous human suffering on both sides of our border. We continue to encourage the Republic of the Sudan, in line with African Union and Security Council resolutions, to engage in negotiations with the representatives of the people of the two areas. The Government of South Sudan, as President Kiir Mayardit has repeatedly said, is ready to offer its good offices, if requested, to assist the parties in their quest for peace. The humanitarian situation in that region, alongside the legitimate political grievances of the population, must be addressed if regional peace and stability are to be achieved and sustained.

Once again, we welcome the reaffirmation by this Council of the continued role of UNMISS in support of our Government as we build our institutions and meet our national responsibilities. We look forward to continuing to work with UNMISS to improve our cooperation. We take note of and express appreciation for efforts to ensure greater co-location of UNMISS staff in South Sudan. We fully recognize the requirement that UNMISS is to have unhindered access across the territory and commit to improving our communication and coordination systems in this area. The Government of South Sudan certainly does not want to see a repetition of the tragic incidents that took place last year, which led to the loss of 16 peacekeepers.

Let me conclude by once again expressing our continued appreciation to Ms. Hilde Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the entire UNMISS team for their support and continued engagement with our Government. We equally express our gratitude to troop-contributing countries for their participation in the Mission. Their support and solidarity with us are highly appreciated. As President Kiir said on our Independence Day, "Your support and solidarity at this crucial time have not gone unnoticed".

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6999

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6999th meeting
Monday, 15 July 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Sahebzada Ahmed Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	Togo	Mr. Kadangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Ambassador Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Quinlan.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I have the honour to present the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), in accordance with paragraph 18 (h) of that resolution. The present report covers an extended period, from 6 March to 15 July. Because of its length, I will read a shortened version. The full text of the report will be published on the Committee website soon.

I would like to begin by updating the Council on the progress the Committee has made on a number of matters included in my report of 6 March (see S/PV.6930). In March, I reported that the Committee was exploring appropriate responses to the Panel's unanimous conclusion in its report of 11 January that Iran's launches of the Shahab-1 and -3 missiles during the Great Prophet VII exercises constituted a violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010). The Committee wrote to Iran on 12 April seeking its comment, within 15 days, on the Panel's conclusion. Regrettably, Iran has not answered to date. The Committee notes that the President of the Security Council subsequently reached out to the Iranian Mission on 28 June to inquire whether a response would be forthcoming.

The Committee is currently considering additional follow-up actions, including the issuance of an implementation assistance notice on Iran's prohibited ballistic missile programme. A number of Committee members expressed the view, as confirmed by the Panel of Experts, that the launches constituted a clear violation of resolution 1929 (2010) and that, therefore, all Member States should redouble their efforts to implement ballistic missile-related sanctions on Iran. At this stage, some Committee members cannot share this view. The Committee intends to provide an update on this issue in its next 90-day report.

I also referred to an incident reported by a Member State, involving the interception in January of a vessel suspected of carrying illicit weapons from Iran to be delivered to the reporting State. The Panel of Experts submitted its report to the Committee on the results of its investigation into that incident on 22 April, and the Committee held informal consultations on 29 April to discuss the report. In that report, the Experts concluded that the case constituted either a violation or a probable violation of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007). Several Committee members stated that the evidence presented in the report was sufficient to assert that Iran was in violation of its obligations, illustrating a pattern of sanctions evasion through arms smuggling in the Middle East. Other Committee members stated that the lack of stronger evidence as to the provenance of the arms, such as documentation, justified the lack of definitive conclusion. The Committee agreed to send a letter to Iran bringing to its attention the Panel's conclusion, expressing concern about the Panel's findings and asking for comment. The letter was sent on 21 May seeking Iran's comment within 15 days and I again regret to inform the Council that, to date, Iran has not responded to that letter either.

The Committee continues to discuss whether and how to respond to the Panel's compilation of publicly available statements made by Iranian officials and alleged recipients of Iranian military assistance, including Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Hizbullah, regarding potential violations of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007). While some Committee members saw value in getting Iran's official position on this matter, others believed that, in the absence of physical corroborative evidence such as actual seized arms or related materiel, such a letter would be premature. The Panel is now investigating the substance of those reported statements to determine whether such corroborative evidence exists, and the Committee looks forward to receiving its report in due course.

During the current reporting period, the Committee received communications from several Member States relating to actions they had taken to implement the

relevant Security Council measures. More details are in the fuller report.

During the informal consultations of 28 May, the coordinator of the Panel of Experts briefed the Committee on the Panel's 2013 final report, which has since been published in document S/2013/331. In her briefing to the Committee, she stressed that Iran continued to seek items for its prohibited activities from abroad by using complex procurement methods, including front companies, false documentation and intermediaries. She further stressed the Panel's assessment that Iran remains dependant on foreign imports for key components of its prohibited nuclear and missile programmes, which indicates the ongoing relevance of the sanctions.

The Committee continued its deliberations on the Panel's report during informal consultations on 17 June, when it discussed in detail the recommendations made by the Panel in the report. The Committee is currently considering proposed responses to these recommendations, including on the implementation of those recommendations that attract the consensus support of the Committee.

In connection with the Panel of Experts, I am happy to report that, following the Council's decision in resolution 2105 (2013) of 5 June to extend the Panel's mandate until 9 July 2014, the Secretariat has now finalized the administrative steps related to the Experts' appointment.

I am happy to report that the Committee adopted, on 21 March, its programme of work for the first half of 2013, which was forwarded for the Council's attention on 26 March. The Committee has already taken steps to implement that document, including by updating two important documents: the hand-out describing implementation by States of resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010); and the fact sheet on the Committee and its Panel of Experts. The fact sheet was brought to the attention of Member States through a note verbale dated 30 April, and both documents are available on the Committee's website.

Also in conformity with its programme of work, on 24 June the Committee, with the assistance of its Panel of Experts, held an open briefing to share information about the work of the Committee and the Panel. The briefing was an important opportunity to engage with the United Nations membership on the Committee's work and provide greater access and transparency to its operation, and in this respect I am pleased to report attendance of over 100 representatives and a vigorous question-and-answer session following our presentations. I believe that the briefing was of great value not only for the participants but also for the Committee and I will continue to look for such opportunities for engagement.

On 26 March, the Committee received, through the Focal Point for Delisting, a delisting request from the First East Export Bank, an entity that is currently on the Committee's consolidated list. The Committee currently has before it a proposal received on 7 June to designate an entity pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1929 (2010).

I referred in my last report to a pending request to exempt a designated individual from the travel ban to attend the high-level International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conference in Saint Petersburg in June. I can now advise that the Committee granted that request, but did not grant a subsequent request to extend that exemption for the individual to attend the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, held in Moscow in July. The Committee also denied a request to exempt from the travel ban a second designated individual to attend the June IAEA conference in Saint Petersburg.

During the reporting period, the Committee received one notification with reference to paragraph 5 (c) of resolution 1737 (2006) concerning the delivery of ionizing radiation sources to be used for quality control of welded joints on gas mains; and one notification pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1737 (2006) and paragraph 4 of resolution 1747 (2007), concerning payments made under a contract entered into prior to the listing of a person or entity.

Finally, I would like to renew the appeal to all Member States to provide, on a voluntary basis, additional identifying information regarding the listed individuals and entities. Such information is absolutely essential for the proper implementation of the sanctions measures.

The President: I thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for presenting the quarterly report on the work

of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). The Committee has a key role to play in ensuring compliance with the measures imposed on Iran, so it is important to maintain its close relationship with Member States. In this regard, we welcome the holding of an open informational meeting on 24 June, and we encourage the Committee to continue to answer the queries it receives from Member States and international organizations.

In addition, we understand that the Security Council should continue to make sanctions enforcement bodies more efficient and transparent, and have an appropriate mechanism to review the measures taken. In this regard, we believe that it should further enhance the quality of the list of persons and entities subject to sanctions. We therefore join the call of the Chairman of the Committee on States to provide, on a voluntary basis, additional information to enable the proper identification of such persons and entities.

Let me briefly highlight three points concerning the Iranian nuclear programme.

First, I wish to reaffirm the inalienable right of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to develop, research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. This is a principled position we have set out in this and other relevant forums. At the same time, my country reaffirms its historic commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and understands that the international community should continue to recognize the relevance of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and its cornerstone, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Secondly, I refer to the most recent report (GOV/2013/27) of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), of 22 May, which has been transmitted to the Council. We agree with the assessment of the Director General and share his concern over the lack of progress in clarifying the outstanding issues and the lack of cooperation on the part of Iran. We consider it essential that Iran actively cooperate with the Agency and provide all information concerning its programme nuclear as required, providing access to all areas necessary to allow effective verification. In that sense, it is important that Iran take the necessary steps for the full implementation of its obligations, including relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and restore the confidence of the international community in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

Thirdly, my country believes that it is essential to continue seeking a solution through talks that will allow certainty about the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We therefore encourage the parties to pursue their efforts in this regard. We also understand that Iran must adopt and implement the so-called structured approach to resolve outstanding issues, according to the call of the IAEA Board of Governors in its resolution of September 2012. We regret that no substantive progress has been made, despite several rounds of negotiations between the IAEA and Iran since the adoption of the resolution. We hope that the ongoing periodic meetings, inter alia, will produce concrete results based on structured approach so that the clarification of the pending issues may begin.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I thank the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Quinlan, as well as the Panel of Experts, for their continued work in supporting the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions on Iran.

The United Kingdom, like others in the international community, remains deeply concerned by Iran's nuclear programme. Since our last briefing (see S/PV.6930), the E3+3 and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have both met with Iranian officials to discuss it, but Iran has shown no willingness on either track to address the international community's legitimate concerns.

Meanwhile, 10 years after the first IAEA report on Iran, Iran continues to press ahead with its nuclear programme. Iran has no plausible civilian purpose for the amount of enriched material it currently possesses, never mind the amount it can now produce. Iran has violated multiple resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors and United Nations Security Council. To quote the May report of the IAEA Director General, "it is now essential and urgent for Iran to cooperate with the Agency on all outstanding substantive issues".

The United Kingdom remains committed to finding a peaceful, negotiated solution to the nuclear issue. If, following the recent elections, Iran is prepared to engage seriously in negotiations on its nuclear programme, we are ready to respond in good faith. Our commitment to seeking a peaceful diplomatic settlement is sincere. We believe that the confidence-building measure proposal

submitted by the E3+3 in Almaty is a fair and credible offer. We urge Iran to engage seriously, but unless it takes positive steps to address international concerns, the political and economic pressure will increase.

Turning to the work of the Committee, we note with regret that Iran continues to breach its international obligations. The Panel of Experts — which, I remind colleagues, includes both a Russian and a Chinese expert — reached the clear and unanimous conclusion in January that Iran's ballistic missile launches last year, during military exercises conducted by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, constitued a violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010).

We welcome the Committee's letter to Iran in April, expressing its concern at this violation. We regret that Iran yet again has chosen not to respond. We reiterate our view that the Committee must now take appropriate actions in response to this serious breach. It should seek to designate individuals involved in this violation, as well as prepare an information assistance notice to assist all Member States with implementing ballistic missile-related sanctions on Iran.

There is also credible information that Iran is providing substantial military and financial support to Hizbullah and the Syrian regime, in contravention of the United Nations embargo on the export of weapons by Iran, as set out in resolution 1747 (2007). Iran continues to illicitly transfer arms within the region, as the Panel's report on Gaza shows, as well as to African States. Iran has a responsibility to bring stability and security to the region. Its continued efforts to promote sectarian violence and instability across the wider region and beyond must come to an end.

The United Kingdom also notes with concern the Panel of Experts' report on the seizure of illicit arms from Iran reported by the Government of Yemen. The evidence in the report confirms that that was yet another violation of sanctions by Iran. That transfer threatens to undermine Yemen's fragile transition. We urge the Committee and the Security Council to take action on it.

We welcome the renewal of the mandate of the Panel of Experts for another year. The Panel provides a crucial investigation and reporting role for the Committee. The Panel's final report (see S/2013/331, annex) highlights Iran's increasingly sophisticated sanctions-evasion techniques. That underlines the importance of the outreach role of the Committee. It must do more to encourage vigilance from, and reporting by, Member States in order to better implement sanctions. We continue to strongly encourage Member States to provide reports on possible sanctions violations.

If Iran's leaders want to bring all sanctions to an end and enable Iran to realize the benefits of a civil nuclear programme, then they must comply with their international obligations and engage with concerns over the nuclear programme. As my Foreign Secretary said recently, we look to Iran to consider carefully whether it wants to continue on its current course, and face increasing pressure and isolation from the international community, or whether it wants to enter into meaningful negotiations. We hope that, following the election of Mr. Rowhani, Iran will take a different course for the future — addressing international concerns about its nuclear programme, taking forward a constructive relationship with the international community and improving the political and human rights situation for the people of Iran.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing. China very much appreciates the great amount of work he has done to take forward the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). China has always attached great importance to the Committee's work and is ready to cooperate with its Chairman in an orderly and stable manner to move forward all the work associated with the Committee.

The resolution needs to be implemented in a comprehensive and precise manner; however, sanctions are not the fundamental objective of the resolution. The Committee and the Panel of Experts should be amenable to diplomatic efforts to resolve the nuclear issue.

In the period under review, the parties maintained close contact on the relevant work of the Committee, including on sensitive and complicated issues. China believes that the parties should bear in mind the goal of the resolution in a cautious, objective and balanced manner so as to hold practical in-depth discussions to cautiously arrive at conclusions.

As to the alleged violations, the investigation should be conducted on clear facts and hard evidence.

China greatly appreciates the efforts made by the Panel of Experts in drafting its report. We welcome the extension of the Panel's mandate and will continue to provide it with assistance and support. We hope that the

Panel will strictly abide by its mandate and that, under the Committee's leadership, observe the principle of neutrality and objectivity. At the same time, the Council and the Committee should strengthen follow-up and guidance to the Panel, in order to ensure that it plays it proper role.

The nuclear issue has a bearing on the authority of the regime established by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as on peace and stability in the Middle East region. Finding a solution to this issue through dialogue and negotiation is the only correct, viable path. That is also the universal aspiration of the international community.

China has always opposed the use or threat of use of force. We do not favour increased pressure or new sanctions against Iran. China has always maintained that the international community should resolve the Iran nuclear issue through dialogue, cooperation and peaceful means. The six countries involved in this process have reiterated that the issue should be resolved in a phased and equal manner, and on the basis of mutual respect in finding a comprehensive and long-term solution to the nuclear issue. The parties should now seize the opportunity to harness the positive momentum and begin a new round of dialogue as soon as possible. They should also foster confidence and adopt a practical and flexible approach, duly take into consideration one another's concerns and actively expand consensus so as to take forward the dialogue. At the same time, Iran should maintain and strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency so as to achieve agreement to resolve pending issues.

China has maintained an objective, just and responsible approach on the Iranian nuclear issue. We have made contributions to continuing and advancing the process of dialogue. China will continue to work with all parties to make a constructive effort to resolve this issue through diplomatic means.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Ambassador Gary Quinlan for presenting his report on the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). The Committee must continue to work impartially and objectively and in the interest of a political and diplomatic solution concerning Iran's nuclear programme.

The Committee undertook intensive work during the reporting period: a programme of work was adopted and the final report of the Panel of Experts, among others, was considered (see S/2013/331, annex). Efforts also continued in the main areas of the Committee's activity, including investigation into possible sanctions violations and processing information received concerning agreements and drafts of various documents.

We note the useful work of the Panel of Experts to provide the Committee with tangible assistance. We have always believed that the Panel should work in a balanced and objective manner and carry out its activities under the Committee's guidance. At the same time, we would like to recall that the members of the Panel act in a personal, not a national, capacity.

In the context of the investigation of cases of possible sanctions violations, we should like to emphasize that the Committee's conclusions and assessments should be based only on reliable and verifiable information, with a thorough analysis of all circumstances surrounding an incident. Hasty conclusions not based on facts must be avoided.

We welcome the statement by Iran's President-elect, Mr. Hassan Rowhani, with regard to Tehran's readiness to demonstrate more openness, including on the nuclear programme. Transparency in the monitoring of the process is precisely what the international community is striving for through the six international mediators and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We trust that those intentions will be borne out in practice, both on the IAEA platform and at the negotiating table between Iran and the six mediators.

We hope that, soon following the assumption of office by the new President of Iran, another full-scale round of dialogue will take place between the six mediators and Iran, especially as the substantive work to move towards initial negotiated solutions has already been done. We see no alternative to a political and diplomatic settlement. Efforts in this area should be based on the principles of gradualism and reciprocity and be in line with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. However, we are convinced that collective actions by the international community to resolve issues related to Iran's nuclear programme are being undermined by unilateral sanctions. In a number of cases, such sanctions are extraterritorial in nature, which is categorically unacceptable from the point of view of international law. Russia will continue to do

its utmost to achieve progress in settling the situation concerning Iran's nuclear programme.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): Like others, I would like to thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing and for his effective chairmanship of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

The quarterly report that he has presented today shows that the Committee continues to do important work in support of Security Council resolutions in a context of ongoing concerns with respect to the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. Luxembourg is also grateful to the independent Panel of Experts established under resolution 1929 (2010) for the vital support it provides to the work of the 1737 Committee. We welcome with satisfaction its final report (see S/2013/331, annex), which is well documented and meticulous from a methodological point of view. We welcome the publication of the report as a Security Council document and we strongly advocate in favour of seeing the recommendations contained therein followed up with action.

Thanks to the final report, it clearly appears that behind the increasing number of reported incidents and the various circumvention techniques used is hidden a sophisticated system of persistent violations by Iran of the decisions by the international community with respect to it. In my delegation's view, a prompt and concrete response from the Sanctions Committee is needed where violations of sanctions regimes have been clearly shown. Not reacting, prevaricating or ignoring the gravity of the violations committed means that we are shirking our responsibilities, and risk losing our credibility. However, helping the Sanctions Committee to effectively fulfil its role as a guarantor of the implementation of Security Council resolutions means contributing to protecting the international community from the dangers that might threaten it.

We take note with renewed concern of the conclusions of the latest report (GOV/2013/27) of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), published 22 May 2013, on the implementation of the safeguards agreement within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is a cause for concern that Iran continues to fail to work as it should with the IAEA with a view to defining a structured approach leading to the required verification and resolving outstanding issues regarding the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme. We strongly deplore the fact that negotiations with a view to concluding an agreement on those issues are being bogged down and that the issue of access to the military site at Parchin in particular remains pending.

Added to that is the fact that Iran, in violation of its international obligations, is continuing the construction of its heavy-water reactor at Arak, is continuing to increase its capacity to produce enriched uranium by installing new centrifuges at the Natanz site, and is pursuing enrichment activities at Natanz and Fordow, thus increasing its stockpiles, which far exceed the country's apparent needs.

Those developments cause us grave concern, which we ask the Iranian authorities to dispel by discharging all of their international obligations in accordance with the provisions contained in Security Council resolutions and those of the IAEA Board of Governors. Only in that way will confidence be re-established.

At the same time, I would like to reaffirm Luxembourg's attachment to a negotiated solution based on the principle of a two-track approach that opens the way for dialogue while demanding that the Iranian authorities commit to providing substantial answers to the questions concerning the ultimate purpose of their nuclear programme.

That is the principle that prevailed on 26 and 27 February in Almaty with the resumption of dialogue between Iran and the E3+3, led by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. At the previous public briefing, on 6 March, we were pleased by the fact that that February meeting was able to initiate a new cycle of negotiations (see S/PV.6930). Today, we regret that the subsequent meetings were not fruitful, following Iran's refusal to engage on the proposals put on the table by the E3+3.

In conclusion, we urge the Iranian authorities — which have just changed at the presidential level — to take the opportunity being afforded to them to finally agree to positively follow up on the E3+3 proposals. We ask them to participate constructively in the negotiating process under way. By choosing that path, the new Iranian authorities will contribute towards giving real substance to the dialogue with the international community and will pave the way for a long-term diplomatic solution that we all wish to see.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for his informative briefing and for the diligence that he and his team have shown since assuming the chairmanship of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). I would like to draw attention to several points with regard to the report before us today.

First, we commend the work of the Committee, which has continued to consider requests for information and reports of alleged violations from Member States. With regard to States' requests for information on the sanctions regime, it is important that the Committee reply in a manner that is clear, direct and, most important, prompt, in accordance with its mandate.

Secondly, with regard to the final report of the Panel of Experts (see S/2013/331, annex), my delegation welcomes that valuable document and supports the recommendations it contains. We commend the promptness with which it was published, as we consider it to be essential that it be accessible to all States Members of the United Nations.

Moreover, we welcome the recently adopted resolution 2105 (2013), which extends the mandate of the Panel of Experts for a further year. The Panel provides valuable support to the work of the Committee. Accordingly, we welcome the inclusion of a paragraph on the matter of selection criteria for experts of Security Council subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2006/997.

We note with concern the contents of the latest report (GOV/2013/27) of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the application of the IAEA safeguards regime in the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It is stated once more in the report that Iran has continued to speed up its nuclear programme and that pending matters remain unresolved, including issues relating to the possible military dimension of its nuclear programme. That lack of outcomes and progress in the dialogue between Iran and the IAEA continues to cause serious concern and, as all are aware, is a source of great frustration for the international community. In the current international context, the lack of cooperation by the Iranian authorities is a definite threat to international peace and security. We again urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt measures towards the full implementation of the Safeguards Agreement and other obligations and commitments under the NPT and, above all, to allow inspections and to reach an agreement on a structured approach.

In conclusion, my country followed with great interest the electoral process that took place in Iran in June. We hope that this new chapter in the political life of the country will facilitate its cooperation with the entire international community. We believe that Iran's nuclear issues should be resolved by diplomatic means. We hope that the President-elect of Iran, Mr. Hassan Rowhani, will contribute towards achieving progress in the nuclear dialogue. In that regard, we look with great interest the outcomes of the E3+3 negotiations to be held this week in Brussels.

Mr. Sahebzada Ahmed Khan (Pakistan): I would like to express my appreciation to Ambassador Quinlan for presenting the 90-day report pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

Pakistan continues to believe that a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue is possible; more importantly, it is essential. But a demonstration of political will and flexibility by all concerned is required. Reciprocal confidence-building measures are necessary. A negotiated solution needs to be facilitated by striking a balance between sanctions and negotiations. We call upon the Council and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) to consider revisiting the objectives and strategy, as set out in the relevant resolutions.

We thank the Panel of Experts for its final report (see S/2013/331, annex). We look forward to discussing and examining its recommendations in the Committee. We also share the views expressed by other Council members with regard to strict compliance by the Panel with its mandate. The Panel's reports and research must conform to high standards of objectivity and impartiality. Its findings and recommendations must always be backed by credible evidence.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as Iran's Safeguards Agreement, provide the framework that stipulates Iran's obligations and rights. Any path towards a resolution of the nuclear issue should be based on those instruments.

We urge Iran to stay engaged with the IAEA and fully cooperate with the Agency with a view to resolving all outstanding issues. We also encourage the countries of the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany to persevere with the dialogue process.

We note the reappointment of all of the Panel's previous experts. Broadening the composition of the Panel, particularly with regard to experts from developing countries, remains an important issue. The appointment of experts in all the subsidiary bodies of the Council must be based on prior, not past, consultations with the Committee. The principle of transparency and the recruitment process must be adhered to by the Secretariat.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Quinlan for the 90-day report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) that he just presented. I also thank the Panel of Experts for its outstanding work, without which the Committee's work would not be possible.

In that connection, we welcome the publication of the final report of the Panel of Experts (see S/2013/331, annex). That document is a valuable source of information with regard to the illegal programmes conducted by Iran and the means used by Tehran to evade sanctions. It also proposes operational recommendations that the Committee wishes to see implemented. We hope that all States Members of the United Nations will read the report and draw their own conclusions with regard to Iran's actions.

I also commend the Chairman's initiative in organizing a briefing of the 1737 Committee on 24 June, which was open to all Member States. The fact that many delegations attended, as well as the scope of the issues raised, serves to confirm the interest that exists with regard to the work of the Iran Sanctions Committee. We hope that this initiative will be repeated.

The Committee's quarterly report shows that Iran continues to fail to respect its international obligations. In violation of Security Council resolutions, the country is continuing sensitive activities in the nuclear and ballistics spheres, as well as its illegal arms transfers.

France is particularly concerned about Iran's ongoing violations of the arms embargo established by resolution 1747 (2007). Those violations fuel the spiral of violence in the Middle East. In that regard, the seizure off the coast of Yemen of a large quantity of arms from Iran in February is additional evidence of Iran's destabilizing activities in the region. The Experts' report on the incident is a particular cause of concern. The quantity and type of weapons seized by the Yemeni authorities — man-portable air defence systems, rocket launchers and explosives — have the capacity to undermine the political process in Yemen today. In addition, we previously received reports concering arms transfers by Iran to non-State groups in Gaza, as well as information with regard to the increased support by Iran in weapons and personnel to Bashar Al-Assad's regime, in violation of resolution 1747 (2007).

Iran is also continuing its ballistics programme, in violation of resolution 1929 (2010). In July 2012, Iran launched Shahab-1 and Shahab-3 ballistic missiles as part of the Great Prophet VII military exercise. The Panel of Experts carried out an investigation, and its report clearly shows a violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010). In a letter, the Committee requested explanations from Iran, to which its authorities have not responded. The Committee has waited long enough. It must now assume its responsibilities and take the necessary decisions.

All these incidents are part of a broader context of lack of cooperation by Iran with the international community. On 22 May, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) submitted a report (GOV/2013/27) on the implementation of safeguards in Iran. The report shows that Tehran continues to favour the path of defiance over that of dialogue. The report confirms a total absence of progress on pending matters, as well as the possible military dimension of Iran's nuclear programme. Iran has still not granted the Agency access to the Parchin site. Moreover, the Iranian authorities have decided to pave over a portion of the site, which seriously hampers the IAEA's capacity to carry out verifications, if and when the Agency is given access to the site. Also, the fact that uranium enrichment is continuing — to 3.5 per cent and 20 per cent — at the Natanz and Fordow sites, with increasingly numerous and modern centrifuges, is another cause of concern. Finally, the report by the Director General confirms the continued rapid construction of a heavy-water reactor in Arak capable of producing plutonium, in violation Security Council resolutions.

At the IAEA Board of Governors meeting held barely a month ago, the Director General himself acknowledged that discussions went in circles because of the lack of cooperation by Iran. Together with our partners in the E3 +3, we expressed our serious concerns about the lack of progress in talks between the Agency and Iran. The situation cannot continue, and Tehran must promptly engage in substantive discussions with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues, including the possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme.

We are of course open to dialogue. The many meetings between the E3 +3 and Iran in 2012 and 2013 bear witness to that. But endless discussions serve no purpose. In April in Almaty, Iran failed to demonstrate its goodwill by providing a constructive response to the balanced proposals of the E3 +3 and the concerns of the international community.

We have taken note of the election of Mr. Rowhani, with whom we are ready to work. But words alone will not do when it comes to threats to international peace and security. Iran must make concrete efforts to establish confidence through the full implementation of the Security Council's resolutions and those of the IAEA Board of Governors. That is the only way that Iran can emerge from the economic stagnation and international isolation in which its relentless nuclear policies have left it.

Mr. Kadangha-Bariki (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing on the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), and to commend him on the outstanding work he has done as head of the Committee.

We take note of the 22 May report (GOV/2013/27) of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the implementation of the safeguards agreement under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as well as the final report (see S/2013/331, annex) of the Panel of Experts established by resolution 1929 (2010).

The exchanges in March (see S/PV.6930) on the nuclear issue in the Islamic Republic of Iran led us to conclude that overall, the crisis of confidence between that country and the international community continued to grow. Four months later, the situation has not improved. The reports of the IAEA and the Panel of Experts are unequivocal: the pending issues — such as access to all the relevant information, documents, sites, materials and personnel in Iran — have not been settled. The most recent talks between the IAEA and Iran, held in Vienna on 15 May, have not enabled them to come to an agreement on a document on a structured approach. Moreover, the Agency reports that activities related to uranium enrichment have continued.

Regarding the other enrichment-related activities discussed in paragraph 27 of its report, the IAEA indicates that it has not received any concrete response to its demands for descriptive information on the announcements that Iran has made on the subject of the construction of 10 new uranium-enrichment installations. The lack of any response clouds the outlook for cooperation between Iran and the IAEA, and it is no surprise that the Agency would conclude that it is not in a position to carry out the necessary verifications or produce a complete report. All those factors, combined with the lack of necessary cooperation, have led the Agency to conclude that Iran's activities could have possible military dimensions.

The erosion of trust between the international community and Iran is basically due to the latter's lack of cooperation. Togo would like to once more appeal to the Islamic Republic of Iran's sense of responsibility and call on it to step up its dialogue with the IAEA and the entire international community, and to grant access to every site, particularly Parchin. The talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany in recent months, aimed mainly at encouraging Iran to renounce its nuclear programme and send its stock of 20-per cent enriched uranium abroad, have not produced results. We hope that the negotiations to come will enable progress to be made in the context of maintaining international peace and security. It is crucial that Iran respect and fully implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors. It is nonetheless firmly established that every country, including Iran, has the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful means within the framework of the IAEA safeguards agreement.

On 15 and 16 May the Government of Togo, in conjunction with the Institute of Security Studies, based in South Africa, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, whose headquarters is in Lomé, organized a regional seminar for West and Central African States on the lessons and prospects of the implementation of United Nations

sanctions. The meeting enabled the 15 or so delegations to be better equipped to understand the Iranian nuclear issue and informed on best practices for implementing related sanctions. In parallel with the seminar, the Panel of Experts established by resolution 1929 (2010) held consultations with Togolese authorities. The exchanges were frank and fruitful and demonstrated our country's willingness to cooperate fully with the Panel, although the Togolese officials emphasized on the importance of strengthening national capacities in the area. The latter aspect emerges clearly in paragraph 136 of the Panel's report.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's gratitude for the Panel's very valuable efforts towards a settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue. Their competence is unquestionable, and that strengthens our conviction that the Council should attach even greater value not only to the question of competence but also to geographical distribution when it comes to nominating members of subsidiary bodies.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan for briefing us today on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). I commend his leadership of this important committee.

While I appreciate the efforts that the relevant parties have made to reach agreement on the language of the report of the Panel of Experts (see S/2013/331, annex), I am disappointed by the lack of consensus. I also expect future briefings to be held within the time frame mandated by the relevant Council resolutions. At the previous briefing, in early March (see S/PV.6930), my delegation joined others in raising concerns about the issues addressed in today's report. It is regrettable, however, that we have not seen much progress in the past four months.

First, with regard to Iran's ballistic missile launches in July of last year, we see no reason to question the Panel's conclusion that such launches constitute a violation of resolution 1929 (2010). Moreover, Iran has not responded to the Committee's letter on the matter. It is unfortunate, however, that the Committee failed to reach an agreement on such an important and clear-cut issue. Already a year has passed since the violation. It is time that the Committee considered taking follow-up action, including issuing an implementation assistance notice.

Secondly, Iran has also not replied to the letter sent on 21 May regarding the Panel's incident report on the illicit transfer of arms to Yemen. We recall that Iran sent a letter to the Council in February stating that it was prepared to cooperate fully and provide the information necessary to investigate the case. Iran's silence does little to demonstrate its willingness to build trust with the international community.

Thirdly, the provision of military assistance in the Gaza Strip is another grave concern. It would certainly contribute to undermining regional stability. We should continue to pay attention to these matters and remain vigilant.

We welcome the Panel's final report as a useful review of the efforts to impede Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. However, the incidents and developments it describes indicate that we still have a long way to go. In particular, we are concerned that Iran continues to pursue prohibited activities by procuring items abroad and using complex methods to evade sanctions, such as front companies, intermediaries and false documentation. The final report will help Member States recognize and address the vulnerabilities that Iran might exploit. The Panel's recommendations are prudent, and include proportionate measures. The recommendations should be implemented by the Committee in due time.

We believe that the Committee's open briefing, held on 24 June, was successful and will be useful for facilitating Member States' implementation efforts. We hope to have such events on a more regular basis.

The five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany have made tireless efforts to engage Iran on its nuclear programme and open the window to peaceful negotiations. We hope that Iran will respond more constructively to the proposal. It cannot remain on the table indefinitely.

The IAEA's talks with Iran are going around in circles. We urge the Iranian Government to engage and cooperate with the IAEA without further delay regarding the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme, the expansion of its enrichment capacity and the activities undermining the IAEA's capacity for effective verification at the Parchin site.

Iran must comply with all relevant Security Council and IAEA resolutions. Iran should make extraordinary efforts to regain the lost confidence of the international

community in the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

Mr. Musayev (Azerbaijan): I too would like to thank Ambassador Quinlan for his work as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and for presenting the report of the Committee.

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the work of the Committee concerning the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and in finding a diplomatic solution to the problem that is based on international law. It is essential to continue dialogue and cooperation on the issues on which progress is urgent for regional stability.

During the reporting period, the Committee received from Member States a number of communications on actions taken in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and on responses on reported incidents. We support the call of the Chair of the Committee addressed to all Member States to cooperate with the Committee and the Panel of Experts by providing information on implementation measures. The Committee discussed the report of the Panel of Experts on the results of its investigation into a January 2013 incident reported by a Member State. It is critical that all cases and incidents be examined in an impartial and objective manner, and that appropriate actions be considered on the basis of credible and fact-based evidence.

It is essential that the Committee continue its efforts to assist States in implementing the relevant Security Council measures. We commend the Committee for holding an open briefing on 24 June to share information about the work of the Committee and the Panel of Experts. The briefing was an important opportunity to engage with the United Nations membership and thus provide greater access to and transparency in the Committee's work. We support the intention of the Chair of the Committee to continue to look for such opportunities for engagement in the future.

We also note the Panel's visits to several Member States to discuss matters pertaining to the mandate of the Panel and the participation of its Experts in a number of workshops during the reporting period. It is essential that the Panel continue its outreach activities, which play an important role in increasing the number of national implementation reports from Member States.

During the reporting period, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held another round of talks in Vienna, on 15 June, aimed at concluding the structured approach document. However, according to the report (GOV/2013/27) of the IAEA Board of Governors of 22 May, no agreement was reached, and it was not possible to begin substantive work on resolving the outstanding issues. It is important that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue its efforts to build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. It is encouraging that dialogue and discussions continued during the reporting period. We hope that diplomatic efforts will help make concrete progress in the talks and move the resolution of the problem forward.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank our colleague, Ambassador Gary Francis Quinlan, for his exhaustive quarterly briefing on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). I would also like to thank the Panel of Experts established in accordance with paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010), and encourage it to continue, under the auspices of the Committee, to participate in various activities concerning the mandate of the Committee and, above all, pursue the dialogue that has been established with Member States during the visits it has made to relevant countries.

The briefing that we have received today shows that the Committee still reviews all cases referred to it, and in particular the report of the Panel of Experts (see S/2013/331, annex) concerning events that undermine the implementation of Security Council resolutions and regional peace and security. We hope that the Committee will continue to enjoy the cooperation of Member States and to benefit from the professionalism and impartiality of the Panel of Experts in its fulfilment of the mandate conferred upon it by the Council. We call on the Committee to continue to provide to Member States all the information and clarifications they need to implement the relevant Council resolutions. We note in this regard the publication of the fact sheet on the 1737 Committee and its Panel of Experts, as well as the information note describing the implementation by States of resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and (1929 (2010).

I congratulate the Panel of Experts on the quality of its final report and call for further consideration of that report, and in particular the recommendations

contained therein, in order to achieve agreement on their implementation.

In the summary of its 22 May 2013 report (GOV/2013/27), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) indicates that, despite the enhanced dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran that began in January 2012, it has not been possible to reach agreement on the structured approach document so as to resolve pending issues regarding possible military dimensions of the Iranian nuclear programme. We hope that, in the light of the most recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran, that country and the IAEA will soon reach an agreement to begin in-depth work on these questions. As the only institution responsible for guarantees, the IAEA must receive full cooperation in order to make concrete progress on the pending questions.

We continue to believe in the use of dialogue and negotiations for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, whatever their nature, complexity or sensitivity. On that basis, we welcome the ongoing talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany, in the hope that, as soon as dialogue begins, it will allow for progress to be made towards a solution that is acceptable to the parties. It is of crucial importance to prevent any weakening of the non-proliferation regime and to work to ensure that all States fulfil their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in terms of guarantees. The strength and impact of the NPT and the pursuit of the strategic objective of nuclear disarmament remain dependent on the respect of all States for the obligations arising from that foundational instrument.

My country continues to support the global objective of nuclear disarmamen and to recognize the right of all States to use nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful ends. The non-proliferation regime is based on a delicate balance between States' rights and obligations that must be protected, preserved and strengthened through full respect for those provisions.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): I thank you, Madam, for convening this meeting. I also thank Ambassador Gary Quinlan of Australia for the 90-day update report and to commend him on a job well done in leading the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), which is not an easy task. We appreciate in particular his transparency as Chair of the Committee, as demonstrated by the holding of an open briefing for the broader United Nations membership on 17 June to explain the work of the Committee and discuss how to effectively implement Security Council resolutions on Iran.

Rwanda takes note of the latest report of the Panel of Experts. We hope that it will continue to assist the 1737 Committee in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council on Iran. We welcome the outreach activities that the Panel has been carrying out, and encourage it to continue its work in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions in an independent, objective, transparent and impartial manner.

We would like to reiterate our belief in the application of the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: non-proliferation, disarmament and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It is therefore our view that every country has the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In that respect, it is critical that Iran take all necessary measures to show the international community the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. Such a confidence-building approach is the only way to ensure that the United Nations and the broader international community lift the economic sanctions that continue to harm the Iranian people.

We regret that Iran has stated that it does not recognize the 1737 (2006) Committee and has thus declined to collaborate with it. We believe that at this time it would be prudent for the Committee to refrain from taking any further action against Iran, and we call on the Council to engage with the new Iranian leadership as the new President has promised to pursue a more peaceful policy and to show greater transparency regarding the nuclear programme.

Let me conclude by reiterating our belief that a diplomatic and political solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis can be reached through dialogue and negotiations, including with the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany. We call on both parties to resume talks, which could be the only way to defuse the growing tension in the region.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the United States.

I would like to join other in thanking Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing as Chair of the Committee

established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and for his leadership of the Committee.

Iran's long-standing violations of its obligations with regard to the nuclear programme are irrefutable. As we heard last month from Director General Amano of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran has not shown a serious willingness to address the demands of the Agency and the Council on the nuclear front. The latest report (GOV/2013/27) of the Director General again shows Iran moving full speed ahead with its prohibited activities.

Iran has now accumulated a stockpile of over 6,300 kilograms of uranium hexafluoride, enriched to 3.5 per cent, and 182 kilograms enriched to 20 per cent. Hundreds of advanced centrifuges have been installed at its facilities. Instead of finding ways to lower tensions and build confidence, Iran announced plans to build additional nuclear plants and enrichment facilities. The Director General now tells us that it is essential and urgent that Iran engage substantively with the Agency regarding a possibility military dimension to its nuclear programme. Yet Iran refuses to respond to the IAEA's valid requests for further information.

In light of these developments, the Iran sanctions Committee must carry out its efforts with increased vigour. The Committee should accelerate implementation of recommendations made by the Panel of Experts in its final report (see S/2013/331, annex). The Committee should also address the steady flow of Iranian arms, military support, advisors and training to groups in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Yemen, Iraq and beyond. Just last January, Iran was caught sending shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles, high-grade explosive and other arms to Yemen. This was more than just a sanctions violation; it was an aggressive act to undermine Yemen's transition. The Committee and the Security Council must take action in response.

Tehran has long supplied weapons to the Al-Assad Government knowing they would be used to massacre the Syrian people. Iran is also sending increasingly sophisticated arms and other material to Hizbullah, its long-standing partner in terrorism, which has publicly intervened in Syria's internal conflict, and to other deadly groups, such as Al-Jaysh Al-Sha'bi. The Council must tackle with renewed urgency Iranian military assistance to Hizbullah and other armed terrorist groups, and should also consider the impact of Iran's actions on the sovereign rights of other countries, especially Lebanon.

Iran has also launched ballistic missiles in clear violation of resolution 1929 (2010). So long as doubts remain about Iran's nuclear intentions, Iran must comply with all of its obligations under Council resolutions, including the unambiguous ban imposed by resolution 1929 (2010) on such missile launches. In short, the Committee cannot afford business as usual. Iran's violations must be treated with the gravest concern if we hope to find durable solutions to conflicts affecting the Middle East.

As the Council seeks to address Iran's many violations, the United States remains convinced that principled diplomacy is the best tool to achieve a comprehensive and peaceful solution to the challenges Iran posed to international peace and security. The onus is on Iran to demonstrate its good faith. After months of delays, we call on Iran to take serious credible steps to engage constructively. Until Iran is prepared to address substantively all aspects of the proposals put forward by the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany, we remain committed to steadily increasing isolation and pressure. Fully implementing the sanctions can show Iran the cost of refusing to uphold its international obligations and illustrate that another, more constructive path is clearly available to its leaders.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7000

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7000th meeting
Tuesday, 16 July 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Sharifov
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Sahebzada Ahmed Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. Kadangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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13-39350 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedures, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Ms. Valerie Amos and Mr. Antonio Guterres, who are participating in today's meeting via video teleconference from Geneva.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Ms. Valerie Amos.

Ms. Amos: I thank you, Madam President, for the opportunity to brief the Council on the regional crisis that has resulted from the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is a crisis requiring the sustained and comprehensive engagement of the international community. The security, economic, political, social, development and humanitarian consequences of this crisis are extremely grave, and its human impact immeasurable in terms of the long-term trauma and emotional impact on this and future generations of Syrians. Family and community networks have been destroyed and Syria's reputation for secularism and tolerance has been eroded, with sectarianism on the rise and the long-term consequences of internal displacement and significant refugee flows unknown. We are watching the destruction of not only a country, but also its people.

When I last briefed the Council, I spoke of the impact of this crisis on all Syrians. That remains the case today, with rising levels of unemployment, the currency in free fall, vital infrastructures destroyed, including schools and hospitals, electricity and water supplies disrupted, with damage to physical infrastructure, lack of personnel and limited investment. The World Health Organization (WHO) has repeatedly warned about the heightened risks of communicable disease outbreaks, including waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid, cholera and hepatitis. Vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles have reappeared due to a drop in national vaccination coverage. Some 6.8 million Syrians require urgent humanitarian assistance; 4.2 million are internally displaced. Fifty per cent of those requiring assistance are children. Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries now exceed 1.7 million, and High Commissioner Guterres will brief the Council on this in more detail. Of the 525,000 Palestinian refugees hosted in Syria, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East estimates that 420,000 require humanitarian assistance. The most recent assessment of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shows 4 million people unable to meet their basic food needs. These statistics hide an unfolding human tragedy.

Despite the worsening security situation, United Nations agencies and partners continue to deliver assistance to people in need. In May, WFP provided assistance to 2.5 million people. The access of 2.4 million people to drinking water has been restored with the support of tUNICEF. Some 1.7 million people have directly benefited from health interventions, and a vaccination campaign run by WHO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health reached more than 1 million children.

Many of those who have received assistance are in areas under the control of armed opposition groups or in areas of active conflict. In May, 42 per cent of those who received food assistance lived in such areas, and delivery by cross-line interagency convoys continues. Since the end of January, our teams on the ground have reached more than 1.4 million people across conflict lines. These are the most challenging of areas to reach, but also where the needs are greatest.

It is important that recognition be given to the humanitarian work being undertaken inside Syria despite considerable constraints, but that help is insufficient to meet the needs identified. While humanitarian staff work tirelessly to assist affected Syrians, gaps in the response remain considerable. While we know where those considered most vulnerable

are located, humanitarian organizations are still not able to get regular, consistent and unimpeded access to millions of affected people. Some locations remain inaccessible due to active fighting or insecurity, but there are other areas, sometimes only a few kilometres from our offices, including in Damascus and Homs, where we are not granted authorization to enter. For example, despite repeated requests, United Nations agencies continue to be denied access to 25,000 people in Al-Moadamyeh in rural Damascus.

In Al-Qusayr, with the exception of a UNICEF generator that was delivered in the vicinity of the town, the call of the Security Council on the Government of Syria to enable immediate and unhindered humanitarian access was rejected until the fighting had subsided and most inhabitants had fled.

Last month, Government forces launched an offensive in Homs. The old city of Homs has been under siege by Government forces for well over a year. A large number of different armed groups have established positions in the area and are exposing civilians to high risk. An estimated 2,500 civilians are trapped in the old city and have not received any significant humanitarian assistance over the past year. They lack food, have no access to safe drinking water and their health status is deteriorating. Opposition groups have so far not enabled them safe passage to leave, and the Government of Syria has refused to allow agencies to deliver assistance into the old city. All attempts by aid agencies to significantly assist or evacuate civilians from Homs old city have so far failed. United Nations agencies have pre-positioned supplies across Homs city to assist 40,000 people, should the situation deteriorate even further and access to those in need be granted.

We have also seen an escalation of conflict in Aleppo, with reports suggesting that it has been difficult for people to leave the area due to insecurity, combined with a lack of fuel and public transportation. A United Nations cross-line convoy arrived on Sunday, with 15 trucks loaded with vital medicines, non-food items and food. However, these supplies are insufficient to cover deep and ever-growing needs, and many civilians are still trapped in the city. Our team reported a harrowing journey that took four days through some of the most insecure parts of the country.

We are seeing a pattern replicated across Syria — entire neighbourhoods and their inhabitants put at risk, with Government and opposition military positions being established in residential areas. Indiscriminate attacks are repeatedly launched on towns and villages. Parties to the conflict systematically and in many cases deliberately fail in their obligation to protect civilians. Reports indicate open and blatant violations of the rules of war, with total disregard for human life and dignity in a climate of generalized impunity. The parties must be reminded that they will be held accountable for their actions.

I have reported previously to the Council on the bureaucratic procedures imposed by the Government of Syria, which have impeded humanitarian efforts. Partner United Nations agencies report some progress in the issuance of visas, with many agencies receiving visas in shorter time frames. However, others, such as the Department of Safety and Security, continue to face problems. Without sufficient security officers and advisors on the ground, humanitarian partners are restricted in their operations and reach. Lengthy customs procedures still delay the importation and distribution of vital humanitarian goods and equipment.

Two humanitarian hubs have been opened, but there is no progress on the establishment of two additional hubs requested more than a year ago. Implementing capacity remains limited, and there are still only 14 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) allowed to operate in Syria. The number of national NGOs approved to work with United Nations organizations has increased to 69, but problems persist in the number of national NGOs allowed to operate in areas with some of the greatest needs. For example, in Idlib, Dara'a and Al-Raqqa, we are authorized to partner with only three or fewer NGOs.

For the first time in many months, essential surgical medical supplies were allowed into Aleppo. We hope that distribution to all locations will be permitted. The distribution of such items has been restricted across conflict lines and opposition-held areas, in direct violation of international humanitarian law. The growing number of opposition groups also poses serious difficulties in negotiating access in opposition-controlled areas.

United Nations agencies have identified 2.8 million people in the most affected areas who have been difficult to reach with assistance over the past two years, despite their desperate situation. We urgently need to address this. We need a mix of approaches to address the humanitarian challenges that face us in Syria.

We need designated, empowered interlocutors so that agencies can engage with someone with the necessary authority to address constraints — lifting bureaucratic constraints, as already mentioned; the granting of free passage of medical supplies; and the demilitarization of medical facilities. We need prior notification of military offensives to civilians and aide convoys. We need the designation of priority humanitarian routes, including across front lines, to allow the safe passage of convoys. We need the use of humanitarian pauses in fighting in order to allow access to people and, as appropriate, cross-border operations. Crucially, we need the funding to support our work — an additional $3.1 billion to meet the needs of people in Syria and neighbour countries for the rest of this year.

We have all said repeatedly that only a genuine political process can prevent Syria from sliding into deeper fragmentation and chaos. We are looking to the Council to exercise its leadership role in that regard. I should like to conclude by echoing the Secretary-General's call on the parties for a ceasefire during the holy month of Ramadan.

The President: I thank Ms. Amos for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Guterres.

Mr. Guterres: I thank you very much, Madam, for this opportunity to address the Council again. There are now nearly 1.8 million Syrian refugees known to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the region. Two-thirds of them have fled Syria since the beginning of this year — an average of over 6,000 people a day. We have not seen a refugee outflow escalate at such a frightening rate since the Rwandan genocide almost 20 years ago.

This crisis has been ongoing for much longer than anyone had feared, with unbearable humanitarian consequences. The people of Syria continue to suffer tremendously, and their suffering is now further aggravated by the hot summer temperatures and particularly distressing during this holy month of Ramadan.

Syria's neighbours have allowed huge numbers of refugees to find safety on their soil, saving hundreds of thousands of lives. But their generosity comes at an increasingly heavy price. While Syria continues to drain itself of its people, the prospects for a political solution and an end to the fighting remain poor, and the warning signs of destabilization in some neighbouring countries are troubling. The continuing influx could send them over the edge if the international community does not act more resolutely to help.

In Lebanon, there is now not a single village or town that has not been affected by the presence of more than 600,000 registered Syrian refugees. The country's borders remain open, and thousands of people cross every day. But the conflict in Syria is steadily creeping into Lebanon, with the number of security incidents increasing in Tripoli, the South, and parts of the Bekaa Valley. The country's political system is paralysed and will likely remain so until the Syrian crisis is over.

Elsewhere in the region, access to safety is becoming more difficult for people trying to flee. Sectarian clashes have intensified in Iraq, and the country has shut its borders, slowing arrivals to a trickle. I have been in close contact with the Iraqi authorities and hope to be able to overcome this situation in the near future. Let us not forget that Iraq also currently hosts over 160,000 Syrian refugees.

In Egypt, where UNHCR has registered some 90,000 Syrian refugees, the situation has also deteriorated recently. A number of flights from Syria were turned back last week, following a decision to impose visa requirements and security clearance for Syrians, which are difficult to obtain prior to travel. While I fully understand the challenges Egypt is currently facing, I do hope that the country will continue to extend its traditional hospitality to Syrian refugees, as it has done since the beginning of the conflict.

In Turkey and Jordan, which together host nearly 1 million Syrian refugees, the authorities are now carefully managing the borders with Syria, mainly due to national security concerns. The borders are not closed: refugees continue to cross, but many can do so only in a gradual manner. There is no question that it is imperative for both countries to ensure their own security in an increasingly tense regional environment. However, I hope that the right balance will be found between measures to prevent dangerous infiltrations and the need to ensure that refugees seeking safety — especially families, elderly people, and women with children — are not stranded in precarious conditions or exposed to the risk of getting caught in the fighting.

Beyond the region, I am also concerned about significant gaps in the protection of Syrians in several

European countries that are under much less pressure than Syria's immediate neighbours.

The assertion that the Syria conflict could ignite the whole region is not an empty warning. Measures must be taken now to mitigate the enormous risks of spill-over and to support the stability of Syria's neighbours so as to keep the situation from escalating into a political, security and humanitarian crisis that would move far beyond the international capacity to respond.

The impact of the refugee crisis on the neighbouring countries is crushing, and the recent restrictions on access sound an alarm bell that must not be ignored. It is time to recognize that we cannot go on treating the impact of the Syrian crisis as a simple humanitarian emergency. As the conflict drags on and on, a longer-term approach is needed, focusing on development assistance, especially for those countries and communities that are most seriously affected by the refugee crisis. While Lebanon and Jordan are bearing the heaviest burden, we also should not forget the significant impact that the influx has had on the Kurdish region of Iraq, or the enormous efforts made by Turkey in assisting over 400,000 refugees with hundreds of millions of dollars of its own resources.

I therefore appeal to all development actors — international financial institutions, United Nations agencies, and national and regional development agencies — to cooperate with the concerned Governments in formulating and supporting community development programmes that will assist these States in coping with the impact of the crisis in Syria. Some concrete steps have already been taken by the World Bank, the European Union Commission and several donor countries, but what is needed now is a well-coordinated and comprehensive plan of action to help ease the pressure on the most affected host countries and allow them to continue sheltering refugees. UNHCR, with its extensive presence on the ground, is fully prepared to support such an effort.

I reiterate my call on all States, in the region and further afield, to keep borders open and receive all Syrians who seek protection. But massive international solidarity with the neighbouring countries is central to making this appeal successful. Resettlement and humanitarian admission opportunities can complement this as useful, even if limited measures of burden-sharing.

What I am asking for today is essential to mitigate the risk of an explosion that could engulf the entire Middle East. But only a political solution for Syria, and an end to the fighting, can fully end this risk. I still have not lost hope that the Syrian parties themselves, all others who are directly or indirectly involved in the conflict, and the international community as a whole — which the Council is mandated to represent — will be able to come together and put an end to the bloodshed. We have seen too many conflicts fester for too long and then spread like wildfire. We cannot afford to have that happen with Syria.

The President: I thank Mr. Guterres for his briefing. I now give the floor to Mr. Šimonović.

Mr. Šimonović: Madam President, I thank you for inviting the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to brief the Security Council on the human rights situation in Syria.

As the Council is aware, the increasingly brutal violence in the country has spread significantly. Just over a month ago, the OHCHR reported that at least 92,901 people had been killed between March 2011 and the end of April 2013. The analysis used involved a rigorous methodology in which each casualty was confirmed by name, place and date of death, with that information being cross-referenced against at least three separate data sources. Out of the 92,901 individuals killed, at least 6,561 were minors, 1,729 of whom were under the age of 10. It has been documented that children have been detained, tortured and executed. They have also been recruited as combatants by armed opposition groups. The independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic has reported that, since March 2011, 86 child combatants have been killed in hostilities. The extremely high rate of killings nowadays, approximately 5,000 a month, demonstrates the drastic deterioration of the conflict.

Since April, Government forces and militias have moved to uproot armed opposition groups from Al-Qusayr and Talkalakh in the Homs governorate, Aleppo, Damascus and rural Damascus. Government forces carry out indiscriminate and disproportionate shelling and aerial bombardments, using, among other weapons, tactical ballistic missiles, cluster and thermobaric bombs — all of which cause extensive damage and casualties if used in densely populated areas. As a result, hundreds of civilians, including women and children, have been killed, thousands injured and tens

of thousands displaced. Many of the displaced in parts of Homs and rural Damascus remain under siege and face miserable humanitarian conditions.

Armed opposition groups have also committed acts of torture, abduction and kidnapping, sometimes along sectarian lines. Killing, violence and threats of reprisals by armed opposition groups against civilian populations perceived to be supportive of the Government are escalating at an alarming rate. Many of the armed opposition groups are reportedly engaging in military operations within populated areas, thereby endangering civilians, including women and children.

The Council has just heard about the humanitarian consequences of the recent intensification of shelling and ground attacks in central Homs. As the shelling continues, it remains difficult to obtain information on casualties, but it is quite clear that we must not allow the suffering, entrapment and death of civilians that we witnessed in Al-Qusayr to be repeated. All parties to the conflict must respect their obligations under international law, avoid civilian casualties and allow trapped civilians to leave without fear of persecution or violence. Immediate humanitarian access should be granted to all conflict-affected populations in besieged areas. We join calls on States to maintain an open-border policy for refugees fleeing the Syrian conflict. We should not wait to encourage humanitarian negotiations between the two sides to alleviate the most acute suffering. Humanitarian contacts are not only vital in their own right; they can also sow the seeds for political negotiations in the longer run.

In Syria today, serious human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity are the rule. In its latest report, the commission of inquiry notes that a number of incidents, potentially amounting to massacres, took place between January and May. OHCHR has received personal accounts of survivors of massacres by Government forces and affiliated militias which took place between 2 and 3 May in the village of Al-Bayda and the Baniyas neighbourhood of Ras Al-Nabaa, both of which are in the governorate of Tartus. According to survivors interviewed by the OHCHR, the massacre in Al-Bayda resulted in at least 200 deaths, including entire families, women and children, some of whom appeared to have been mutilated and burned. In Ras Al-Nabaa, residents trying to flee under intense shelling before the massacre took place were reportedly intercepted at Government checkpoints and forced to return, in some cases to meet their deaths.

OCHCR continues to investigate equally disturbing allegations of killings along sectarian lines reportedly carried out by armed opposition groups. Large-scale displacement, including across the border, on the basis of religious or other affiliations, is a worrying indication that intercommunal massacres are now a real risk. OCHCR is concerned at the use of rhetoric by religious and political leaders in Syria and the region that can exacerbate existing sectarian tensions and lead to more violence and large-scale atrocities. All leaders have a responsibility to refrain from using or condoning language that may escalate sectarian tension. States must take action to prevent incitement to violence on any grounds.

The continuous influx of foreign fighters into Syria to support both sides remains of great concern and fuels the conflict further. The return of foreign fighters in body bags is exacerbating sectarian tension in surrounding States and endangering the security of the region. States should discourage the movement of foreign fighters into Syria.

The supply of weapons to both sides must stop. The solution should be political, not military. States with influence over the parties must work to support an inclusive, Syrian-led political solution to the conflict.

Parties must initiate immediate negotiations to reduce violence and human rights violations and improve the protection of civilians. Progress in those areas can build confidence between the Government, armed opposition groups and local communities and open the political dialogue.

We fully support the Secretary-General's call for a truce during Ramadan and call on all parties to lay down their arms, immediately cease acts of violence against civilians and protect them from hostilities, in compliance with international law.

Throughout continuing efforts to bring peace, we should seek to uphold justice and accountability. War crimes, crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations must not go unpunished. To that end, OHCHR once again urges the Security Council to refer the Syrian crisis to the International Criminal Court.

We urge the Syrian Government to facilitate access for OHCHR, top officials and staff and the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria to the country. We ask the Security Council for its support in that regard. Through fact-finding and human

rights monitoring, those teams can provide impartial substantive analysis to support the protection of human rights and provide for high-level advocacy.

The President: I thank Mr. Šimonović for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, Madam President, to begin by congratulating you on your country's presidency of the Security Council this month. I would also like to thank the speakers who have briefed us this morning.

The Syrian Government continues to do everything possible to shoulder its responsibility and duty towards its people in order to meet the humanitarian and basic needs of its citizens. It is doing so in spite of economic, political and media pressure, including of course the arbitrary unilateral economic measures that have been imposed against the Syrian people by some States Members of this international Organization. That is in addition to the pressure exerted against the Syrian economy and the manipulation of our national currency, as well as the continued support being provided to armed terrorist groups entering Syria across our borders from neighbouring countries in order to undertake acts of destruction, terrorism and violence and to obliterate every means of survival for Syrian citizens, including our infrastructure, crops and ability to provide humanitarian assistance.

The Syrian Government participated seriously and effectively in the negotiations that led to the adoption of the fifth humanitarian support plan. It has also continued its constructive cooperation with the United Nations system to address the humanitarian consequences of the events in a positive and pragmatic manner. We welcome the extension of the objectives under the assistance plan, including projects aimed at supporting the Syrian Government in revitalizing key sectors and to rebuild our infrastructure, which has been systematically targeted by armed terrorist groups.

Allow me now to turn to some of the steps taken by the Syrian Government since the previous briefing to the Council (see S/PV.6949).

In an attempt to coordinate our national and international efforts to provide comprehensive international assistance to all those who deserve it, the competent authorities of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic have established a high commission on assistance made up of national committees. Its purpose is to ensure the return of displaced families to their homes or to provide them with temporary housing in order to meet their basic needs and provide them with the necessary financial assistance. As of 17 June, the Government of Syria had set up approximately 803 temporary housing units throughout the country. Those include community centres, schools and governmental buildings. There are now approximately 918,000 displaced families throughout Syrian territory.

In addition, there is also a governmental committee in place to address reconstruction issues and serve those whose properties have been destroyed. That committee also helps to rehabilitate and maintain infrastructure and several Government buildings.

The Government has also taken steps to facilitate the work of United Nations agencies in providing relief by increasing the number of non-governmental organizations to 14. That is in addition to the 82 national groups working throughout the country.

We have also allowed international organizations to carry out approximately 800 visits to evaluate needs and provide assistance. Three hubs have been established, and the Government is considering the opening of additional ones. That is in addition to the work being carried out by the World Food Programme.

The cooperation of the Syrian Government with the United Nations is governed by the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the Guiding Principles for Humanitarian Assistance and the revised humanitarian relief plan. The Government is fully committed to working within that framework. However, at the same time, the Government is calling upon the Secretariat and the Member States to show the same level of respect for the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Dealing with civilians should not be done in a selective, opportunistic or politicized manner. Statements to the effect that there are approximately 2,500 persons trapped in Homs, when the Syrian Government is ensuring their security and that they have access to assistance, as well as doing everything possible to open up the area and clear it of terrorist actions, should not divert our attention from the blockade that has been imposed by armed terrorist

groups against hundreds of thousands of Syria's inhabitants. We have not heard any comment from the United Nations on that issue.

With regard to the humanitarian tragedy caused by armed terrorist groups and their supporters, including States Members of the Organization, I should like to mention the towns of Nebbol and Al-Zahraa, which have been under blockade for more than a year by such groups crossing into our territory from Turkey. The 2 million citizens of Aleppo, who suffer from terror imposed by extremist terrorist groups known to everyone through social media, including Al-Qaida — do they not also deserve a mention by the Secretary-General? Do the citizens of Nebbol and Al-Zahraa not deserve even a limited response from the United Nations in order to break the blockade? Interest has been shown with regard to the thousands of people living in Homs, while hundreds of thousands of others in northern Syria are ignored.

Returning to Homs, the Government of Syria has extended a formal invitation to the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide emergency relief, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, to help people under blockade in the old city, who are being used by armed terrorist groups.

Some in the United Nations justify their determination to provide humanitarian relief across international borders by asserting that the Government has not provided assistance to all regions. However, the figures speak for themselves. The statistics of the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross speak for themselves. Sixty per cent of assistance is being channelled to regions where the armed terrorist groups are operating, while only 40 per cent is being sent to other regions.

A report dated 23 May by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees referred to 14 joint United Nations convoys gaining access to hot spots that were not previously accessible in Aleppo, Idlib, Homs and Dayr Al-Zour, in order to provide assistance to approximately 975,000 persons. The World Food Programme is also providing assistance in Nashabiya, Al-Moadamyeh and Duma, in the vicinity of Damascus, as well as in Al-Mayadin district of Dayr Al-Zour. According to United Nations sources, during the first half of the year, 10 convoys were deployed to assist approximately 1 million inhabitants, including in A'zaz, Akramah, Bab Al-Hawa and Atma, along the Turkish border, as well as Talbisah, in Homs and Sarmin in the governorate of Idlib.

The lack of financing continues to be the major obstacle to implementing the relief plan. We are surprised that, following the largest humanitarian appeal launched by United Nations agencies and their partners in recent times, financing has to date reached only 35 per cent of the amount required for the implementation of the relief plan. According to a report by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, if financing is not received in time, the basic relief needed for survival will be jeopardized by the beginning of September.

Displaced Syrians continue to return to their homes on a regular basis, in particular refugees in neighbouring States. In that connection, I should like to refer to some statistics documented by the United Nations and its agencies. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported the voluntary return of thousands of Syrians from Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. Sixty-eight thousand persons have returned to Syria, 9,000 arriving in the month of June alone, mostly from the Zaatari refugee camp. Forty-five thousand Syrians have returned from Turkey, while 9,000 have come back from Iraq. We regret the fact that some Governments have seized Syrians' identification documents to prevent them from returning to their country. Worse still, those people have been intimidated and dissuaded from returning voluntarily to their homes.

The diplomatic-political-media machine gives us unreliable and fabricated statistics and information as to the number of dead, refugees and prisoners in Syria. Those statistics come from unprofessional sources. Moreover, an American company has been officially entrusted with preparing the statistics, in spite of the fact that it is associated with a State whose hostility towards Syria is well known. Such institutions are not interested in knowing where each refugee or person killed came from, or whether they were from the Syria Arab Army or the police force.

Our army faces unprecedented terrorism from extremist groups that have come from all four corners of the Earth to destroy Syria and kill Syrians. This is a historic moment that requires the courage to recognize the reality we face and to stand against the international

terrorism confronting Syria, which is undermining all international efforts to combat terrorism.

We are seeing a new face of terrorism that is quite different. Some call it a jihad, others call it an armed struggle and others still call it sexual jihad. This is transnational terrorism and it has a negative impact on everyone. That is well known to the States Members of the Organization. Opposition forces today stated that the Al-Nusra Front, which is linked to Al-Qaida, intends to declare an Islamic Syrian State in the north of the country by the end of the month of Ramadan. Those terrorists, who come from abroad via our border with Turkey, have Takfiri and Salafist tendencies. They are jihadists and are sponsored by Governments hostile to Syria, which finance terrorism that is killing only Syrians. However, as has already been the case for some States, that terrorism will reach the doors of those who sponsor it. If Member States do not recognize the dangers of that type of terrorism, then there will not be peace for anyone and the day will come when the Governments of some Member States will regret their actions against the Syrian people from a social, economic and infrastructure standpoint.

We are fighting Salafist terrorism on behalf of the entire world. Others have had to do the same in Afghanistan, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. That is the terrorism we face today in Syria. It is not dissociated from the terrorism that all Members face. Lybian weapons arrive through official convoys, aeroplanes and ships to neighbouring States Members of the Organization. Some say that there are 2,500 individuals in Homs whom the Security Council needs to intervene to save. In fact, hundreds of thousands of Syrians are suffering from terrorism. That is today's reality.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Lebanon.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon): Allow me first to commend Ms. Amos, Mr. Guterres and Mr. Šimonović for their relentless efforts to help alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people and to ensure respect for their basic rights. I would also like to thank them for their briefings, which only confirm how appalling the humanitarian situation has become and how urgent remains the need for the Council to act.

It is indeed tragic that, since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, more than 100,000 people have died and many more have been wounded. Almost 4 million have been displaced within Syria and another 2 million have fled, seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, including my own, Lebanon. But it is even more tragic that the Security Council, the organ entrusted by the Charter of the United Nations with the maintenance of peace and security, has so far failed to put an end to the conflict, while every day brings more victims and greater destruction.

Time and again we and others have warned against the potential spillover of the Syrian conflict into neighbouring countries. With the failure to end the conflict, the potential dangers are now unfortunately becoming realities. The increasing cross-border fire and incursions from Syria into Lebanon are threatening my country's security and stability. We strongly condemn all such acts, whoever their perpetrators may be and whatever their alleged reasons. We appreciate the fact that the presidential statement issued by the Council on 11 July

> "echoes President Michel Sleiman's protest, in his letter of 18 June 2013, at such repeated shelling from the conflicting parties, including the Syrian Arab Armed Forces and Syrian armed opposition groups, that violates Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity." (*S/PRST/2013/9*)

In that context, let me reiterate that my Government remains fully committed to its policy of dissociation from the Syrian conflict and to the terms of the Baabda Declaration of 12 June 2012.

Another dramatic impact of the Syrian conflict is the massive influx into Lebanon of refugees fleeing violence in Syria. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the latest statistics indicate that there are now 607,908 refugees, as compared to 129,106 at the end of 2012 and 28,477 in mid-July 2012. In other words, the number of refugees has increased by more than 460 per cent since the beginning of this year, and by more than 20-fold in a year. In reality, the numbers are much greater. The Lebanese General Security Directorate puts the number of Syrians in Lebanon at 1.2 million. The discrepancy between the figures is due to the fact that many Syrians have not felt the need to register as refugees, or are unwilling or afraid to do so for political or sectarian reasons; on top of that are illegal entrants and the 200,000 to 300,000 Syrian workers traditionally present in Lebanon, along with the family members who have joined them since the situation began worsening in

Syria. In addition, there are about 40,000 Lebanese returnees and 63,000 Palestinian refugees who have fled Syria since the crisis began.

Syrian refugees are now to be found in more than 1,400 locations in Lebanon, and their numbers exceed those of local inhabitants in 30 per cent of those places. It is also noteworthy that approximately 77 per cent of those refugees are women and children, and that 66 per cent are in northern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, which are the regions closest to the Syrian border and also happen to be the poorest areas of my country. Amid the continued violence in Syria, the number of refugees and other persons displaced to Lebanon is projected to reach 1,229,000 by the end of 2013 — the equivalent of more than a fourth of Lebanon's own population — putting significant pressure on local communities. Madam President, it is as if your country, the United States of America, were to have an influx of 75 million refugees, which is more than twice the population of Canada. Can you imagine the impact of an influx of such magnitude on your own country?

In its spring 2013 *Lebanon Economic Monitor*, the World Bank noted that the Syrian conflict

> "is severely and negatively impacting the Lebanese economy. The largest impact arises through the insecurity and uncertainty spillovers and touches at the heart of Lebanon's societal fabric."

In fact, in 2012 consumer confidence reached a new low, plunging by 36.8 percent as compared to 2011. As security incidents have continued to increase in 2013, we expect a further drop in consumer confidence, leading to slowed economic activity. Faced with uncertainty, private investment has also declined. Inflationary pressures are mounting. Trade activities have been widely affected by the Syrian crisis, since traditional land transit routes through Syria have been severely disrupted, when not closed altogether, and insurance and freight costs have risen significantly. For example, between January and April of this year, cumulative exports through Syria dropped by 20 per cent. The tourism sector witnessed double-digit declines during 2011 and 2012, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia predicts an even larger decline in 2013, by around 25 per cent. Since tourism represents between 10 and 12 per cent of our gross domestic product (GDP), the impact of such a decline could lead to a 2.5 per cent drop in GDP from tourism alone.

The Syrian refugee crisis also has broader implications for stability in Lebanon, and it has put significant pressure on local resources, leading to increases in security threats, the crime rate, social tensions and labour competition, since approximately 1.4 million Lebanese citizens are thought to be affected by the displacements from Syria. Beyond the fiscal cost, the influx of refugees has also strained public services in areas such as health and education.

The pressures and threats on Lebanon are mounting and the escalating needs of the Syrian refugees have clearly outstripped my country's capacity. Yet, well aware of its humanitarian responsibilities and legal obligations, and in view of the historical and brotherly ties between the Lebanese and Syrian peoples, Lebanon reiterates before the Council today that it will not close its borders to those fleeing the horrors of violence and destruction. It will not extradite refugees who have sought safety on its territory. It will not stop delivering basic humanitarian assistance to any refugee as long as the means are available. However, Lebanon also believes that it is its right to ask every member of the international community to share with it the burdens of the Syrian refugee crisis, whether in terms of numbers or assistance — especially considering that Lebanon is the smallest of the host countries with the largest number of refugees, both in absolute terms and relative to its own population.

Clearly, Lebanon cannot cope by itself with the immense tasks that lie ahead, as the number of refugees spirals. For a comprehensive and coordinated response to the current crisis, $1.7 billion is needed to fund Lebanon's part of the fifth Syria regional response plan, which covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013. Direct support to the Government of Lebanon for strengthening its national capacities and essential public services is crucial. No less vital is the need to secure direct funds to meet the needs of Lebanese host communities in assisting refugees.

The Kuwait conference was a successful start and pledges have been generous, but we all need to ensure that pledges do not remain mere pledges and that all donors make good on them. Undoubtedly, an increase in the humanitarian assistance to the people of Syria is a matter of paramount urgency.

Let me conclude, however, by quoting from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's appeal for the people

of Syria, issued on the occasion of the beginning of this holy month of Ramadan:

> "[N]o matter how effective our humanitarian response, it will not end the violence. The solution to the problems of Syria does not lie there: what is needed is a peaceful Syrian-led political solution for a democratic future in which all Syrians live in security, equality and dignity" (*SG/SM/15162*).

I sincerely hope that the Council will live up to its responsibilities in helping to make such a solution possible.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Alhakim (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to thank you, Madam President, and to congratulate the United States of America upon its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would like to express my appreciation to the representative of the United Kingdom, Ambassador Sir Mark Lyall Grant, who presided over the Council last month.

In the light of the humanitarian situation faced by our brothers the Syrian people, and as an imperative humanitarian duty, the Iraqi Government has taken a number of measures to alleviate the suffering experienced by our brothers in Syria. In recognition of how the Syrian people hosted a great number of Iraqi refugees during the crisis our country faced, the Iraqi Government contributed $10 million at the international donors conference on Syria held in Kuwait, and established a $40-million fund to assist Syrians. Furthermore, the Government is providing monthly grants of $400 to families and of $150 to unmarried individuals. We note that Iraq provides this financial assistance without requesting any compensation from the international community.

The Iraqi Government is also providing social services to its Syrian guests by opening its school doors to all Syrian boys and girls, at all levels, so that they can continue their education without interruption. Iraq is also providing medical services at Government hospitals unconditionally. Furthermore, those Syrians who are financially capable are given the freedom to choose where they want to settle within Iraq. We have also extended an invitation to the Secretary-General and his representatives for humanitarian affairs to visit Iraq and inspect the conditions of the Syrian refugees. We take this opportunity to recall the assistance provided by the Iraqi Government in facilitating the successful visit of Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts, and her team to inspect the conditions of Syrian children in Iraq.

With regard to the security and political situations, the position of the Iraqi Government since the early days of the crisis has been one of support for a peaceful resolution of the crisis by the Syrians themselves coming to the negotiating table to stop the spilling of Syrian blood. We have provided clear support for the efforts of the United Nations, including those of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi and Mr. Kofi Annan. We voiced our support for the six-point solution proposed by Mr. Kofi Annan to resolve the crisis in Syria.

Here we reaffirm our position that Iraq does not support any military or foreign intervention. We call on all sides, Arab and non-Arab alike, to cease providing financial and military support to all militias and Islamic militant groups, which we believe can only further complicate matters.

In the light of Iraq's support for the resolution of the crisis, my Government has been a keen participant in the conferences that we believe may help all sides to reach a viable solution to stop the conflict, whose negative effects on the region and on Iraq in particular are quite clear. My Government has made its position very clear in meetings held with the moderate Syrian opposition, which is seeking a peaceful solution and working to establish a democratic constitutional system that satisfies the demands and aspirations of the Syrian people.

The Iraqi Government urges the Syrian Government to provide access for international organizations to reach civilians trapped in conflict areas so as to provide them with food, medical services and basic necessities. Furthermore, Iraq is concerned over reports of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict, in particular in the light of the fact that the Iraqi people have suffered from the use of such internationally banned weapons.

In conclusion, the solution of the Syrian crisis lies with those Syrians who truly want a peaceful settlement that would provide for a prosperous future for all sectors of Syrian society, living in peace and security. My Government has supported and continues to support the convening of a second Geneva conference to consider

ways and means to find a solution acceptable to all parties to the conflict.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Eler (Turkey): At the outset, allow me to thank you, Madam, for organizing this very timely briefing. Our thanks also go to Ms. Amos, Mr. Guterres and Mr. Šimonović for their valuable updates on the intensifying humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Today's briefing serves as another reminder that the grave humanitarian situation in Syria is unacceptable and unsustainable. How many more wake-up calls are necessary for the international community to effectively address this crisis?

The Syrian regime, which tried to suppress the legitimate demands of its people through the indiscriminate use of violence and then declared an all-out war against them by employing heavy weaponry, has been escalating its inhumane attacks with every day that passes. Al-Qusayr, Hama and Homs are under the regime's heavy bombardment from both ground and air. The use of ballistic missiles and chemical weapons against the civilian population further increases our concern and indignation and is turning the situation into the greatest humanitarian tragedy of the twenty-first century. Unless those attacks come to an end and foreign militia forces fighting on the side of the regime leave the country, it will not be possible to clear the way for a peaceful settlement.

The bloodshed must come to an end through a political solution and a meaningful transition, while the territorial integrity and political unity of Syria is preserved. The international community, in particular the United Nations, has a vital role to play in that regard. On the other hand, we should address the current humanitarian crisis in a realistic and results-oriented manner in order to extend a helping hand to the civilian victims of this disaster.

As we just heard, recent reports of the United Nations and its agencies operating on the ground portray a troublesome picture. I will not repeat the numbers, which speak for themselves.

When we look at the situation from the Turkish side of the border, we see a crisis that threatens regional and international peace and security and that places a grave burden on Syria's neighbours. The neighbouring countries cannot, and should not, be asked to face those pressing challenges alone.

We in Turkey are exerting our utmost efforts to respond the ramifications of the Syrian crisis. Our assistance is based on the principles of responsibility and conscience. I would like to stress that, despite its ever-increasing burden, Turkey will continue to stand by the Syrian people, and its open-door policy for Syrians will continue.

We now host more than 200,000 Syrians in 20 camps. The number exceeds half a million if we include those who have found their way to various Turkish cities and towns. Besides keeping its borders open, Turkey also provides appropriate living conditions to Syrians in the camps in all areas pertaining to daily life, such as health, education and social needs. Turkish expenses arising from the responsibility to respond to the crisis have exceeded $1.5 billion. Furthermore, the Turkish Red Crescent Society is delivering humanitarian relief at the zero point of the border with Syria with transparency and in conformity with international legitimacy and humanitarian principles.

As highlighted by the United Nations, humanitarian funding falls short of keeping up with the needs in Syria. However, pledging financial support alone is not sufficient. The existing methodology aimed at achieving full, unimpeded and safe humanitarian access is not working amid the growing and deepening crisis in Syria. The international community, with a view to burden-sharing, must take collective action. As a response to the growing tragedy and the plight of the Syrian people, new and creative measures and methods are needed in order to ensure safe and sustained humanitarian access to address the problems of internally displaced persons within Syria. The Council needs to consider alternative forms of aid delivery, including cross-border operations.

The international community, in particular the Security Council, has a moral responsibility to act urgently, resolutely and collectively. In its absence, this untenable situation, which is destroying human lives, damaging livelihoods and threatening regional and international peace and security, will continue to grow.

We reiterate once again our support for the Syrian people's legitimate aspirations to live in dignity, as well as our determination to continue to do our utmost in responding to the humanitarian crisis across our border.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7001

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7001st meeting
Tuesday, 16 July 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Rutilo
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Ms. Jiang Hua
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Kadiri
	Pakistan	Mr. Munir
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Sahel region (S/2013/354)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace and security in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Sahel region (S/2013/354)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/354, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Sahel.

Following consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council reaffirms its concern about the alarming situation in the Sahel region, and its commitment to address the complex security and political challenges in this region that are interrelated with humanitarian and developmental issues as well as adverse effects of climate and ecological changes. The Security Council welcomes, in this context, the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) following the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali to MINUSMA on 1 July 2013.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of countries of the Sahel region.

"The Security Council continues to be gravely concerned about the activities in the Sahel region of terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, and reiterates its strong condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks perpetrated in the region. The Security Council considers sanctions an important tool in countering terrorism, and underlines the importance of prompt and effective implementation of its relevant resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), as key instruments in the fight against terrorism. The Security Council also expresses its continued concern over the serious threats to peace and security posed by armed conflict, proliferation of arms, transnational organized crime, including illicit activities such as drug trafficking, in the Sahel region and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism. In this regard, the Security Council reiterates its call for a full implementation of its resolution 2017 (2011).

"The Security Council strongly condemns the abuses of human rights and violence against civilians, notably women and children, committed in the region by terrorist and other extremist groups.

"The Security Council recognizes that the strengthening of State institutions, inclusive economic and social development, respect for human rights and the rule of law are necessary to ensure long-term security, development and stability in the Sahel region.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach encompassing governance, security, humanitarian, human rights and developmental aspects to resolve the threats to peace and security across the Sahel region, as well as to address the root causes of these challenges, and welcomes in this regard the development of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, as requested by its resolution 2056 (2012), and the three strategic goals defining the strategy.

"The Security Council welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Sahel in the development of the United Nations strategy and in drawing attention to the situation in the Sahel region, as well as in mobilizing resources and support for the Sahel region's immediate and long-term needs. The Security Council also welcomes the Special Envoy's proposal to partner with relevant international and regional financial institutions to promote innovative approaches and initiatives for the Sahel region, and in this regard encourages the Special Envoy to foster more coherent and coordinated United Nations support for the Sahel region. The Security Council also encourages the Special Envoy to pursue his efforts and good offices in order to enhance transregional and interregional cooperation and international assistance toward the Sahel region.

"The Security Council also welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Special Representative

of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in support of States of the Sahel region.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of a coordinated approach by all concerned United Nations entities involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategy for enhanced cooperation with a view to maximizing synergies. The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective implementation of the United Nations strategy through close collaboration between the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Sahel region, UNOWA and relevant United Nations entities working in the Sahel region, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Security Council further requests UNOWA to establish an effective and detailed coordination mechanism to prioritize activities and to ensure coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations strategy.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of national and regional ownership of the United Nations strategy and recognizes the importance for the United Nations strategy to be implemented in close consultation with States of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb, as well as with the African Union (AU), the Economic Connnunity of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, the European Union, regional financial institutions, including the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, and other bilateral donors and partners. The Security Council stresses further the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts and the need for strengthening collective engagement across the Sahel region.

"The Security Council calls on Sahel, West African and Maghreb States to enhance interregional cooperation and coordination in order to develop inclusive and effective strategies to combat in a comprehensive and integrated manner the activities of terrorist groups, to prevent the proliferation of all arms and to curb transnational organized crime, including illicit activities such as drug trafficking. The Security Council encourages, in this regard, the holding of follow-up activities building on the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on border-control cooperation in the Sahel and the Maghreb organized in Rabat. The Security Council emphasizes the importance of regional and international coordination in addressing the threat of terrorism in the Sahel region, including information sharing and close cooperation between the United Nations, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, the AU and other relevant organizations and initiatives.

"The Security Council commends the efforts undertaken by Sahel States and relevant regional organizations in addressing the humanitarian challenges in the region, as well as in strengthening resilience. The Security Council also commends the support provided by countries in the region and by other donors and calls for their continued assistance to Sahel States to this end. The Security Council applauds the efforts of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, with the support of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, other humanitarian actors and agencies, to draw attention to the scale of the challenges facing the Sahel region, provide humanitarian assistance to the affected populations, and build and strengthen resilience at the local, national, and regional levels with the aim of reducing the impact of disasters.

"The Security Council welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to hold a high-level meeting on the Sahel on the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Security Council welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to visit the Sahel region later this year with the President of the World Bank Group, and looks forward to a briefing to the Security Council following this visit.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the progress towards the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel no later than 31 December 2013, and to present a written report no later than 30 June 2014."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2013/10.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7002

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7002nd meeting

Tuesday, 16 July 2013, 3.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. DiCarlo	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Rutilo
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Ms. Jiang Hua
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Munir
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2061 (2012) (S/2013/408)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-39506 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2061 (2012) (S/2013/408)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Iraq to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/408, which contains the third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2061 (2012).

I now give the floor to Mr. Kobler.

Mr. Kobler: At the outset of this meeting, please allow me to wish everyone a blessed month of Ramadan.

I am honoured to present to the Council today the third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2061 (2012), on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). I shall also brief Council members on the most recent developments in Iraq.

Ten years after the fall of the former regime and less than two years after the withdrawal of United States forces, Iraq's transition toward democracy and prosperity is in a crucial phase. The country can continue to make important strides in deepening the roots of democracy, pursuing reform, embracing diversity and improving its stature in the international community; or Iraq can go down a dangerous path, potholed with political impasse and sectarian violence at each turn, leading to increased instability. The Iraqi people and their leaders now face a set of critical decisions, the outcome of which will leave a lasting impact on their future.

I am deeply concerned by the recent events in Iraq. I regret to report that the past four months have been among Iraq's bloodiest in the past five years. Nearly 3,000 men, women and children have been killed, and over 7,000 more injured. The perpetrators of that violence are taking advantage of two leading factors of instability in the country. Those include the ongoing political stalemate and the Syrian crisis.

Almost seven months after the first protests broke out in Ramadi, demonstrators are still holding sit-ins on international highways and public squares throughout Iraq's western governorates. They claim that the Government has yet to fulfil their demands. In turn, the Government indicates that it has persisted in its efforts to meet those demands. For instance, the Government announced that it had released approximately 8,000 detainees. Similarly, the Government has reported that, as of 1 July, the committee chaired by Mr. Al-Shahristani had reinstated pensions and lifted property seizures, among other measures, that affect 300,000 citizens in a positive manner.

On the legislative side, senior government and political leaders have endeavoured to produce mutually acceptable draft laws that address the demonstrators' demands. I am pleased to report that this process has borne some fruit. In April, the Council of Ministers approved three key amendments to controversial laws, which have now been introduced for consideration in Parliament. Unfortunately, the enactment of those amendments in Parliament, along with other important legislation, is still pending.

I have continued to pursue UNAMI's mandate to promote national reconciliation. I have done so by consulting repeatedly and consistently with senior leaders, religious authorities and representatives of key parties. I have also offered my good offices. Our aim was to facilitate contacts among national actors. In that context, the Government of Iraq agreed to a UNAMI-led verification mechanism on the release of female detainees.

The United Nations has remained the only international actor to reach out to the demonstrators and their leaders in a public way. We have continued to visit them in places such as Mosul and Ramadi, and even in cities outside Iraq.

To promote a negotiated solution, UNAMI has established a set of principles that should guide any dialogue initiative. The principles affirm, first, the

the unity and integrity of Iraqi territory; secondly, the rejection of all forms of violence; thirdly, the eradication of all forms of sectarian incitement; fourthly, respect for the Constitution as the supreme law; and, fifthly, upholding all fundamental freedoms and human rights, as enshrined in the Constitution.

I therefore appeal to all leaders and representatives to end the stalemate by enacting the proposed amendments and laws. I also call upon the demonstrators to maintain the peacefulness of their protests and to engage in a sincere and constructive dialogue without further delay.

The need to resolve the demonstrator crisis is more pressing than ever. Iraqis were reminded of the risks during the early morning hours of Tuesday, 23 April. Iraqi security forces clashed with demonstrators in Kirkuk's southern town of Hawija. According to our investigations the Iraqi security forces used excessive force in the face of largely unarmed demonstrators, leading to the death of 45 people and injuring another 110, almost all of them were civilians.

Hawija unleashed a wave of deadly standoffs and attacks across Iraq. I have condemned the violence and called on the Government to launch a public, independent and transparent investigation and to bring to justice those responsible to justice.

In the aftermath of Hawija, a number of armed groups are once again active. Some are affiliated with terrorist groups such as Al-Qaieda. Others are well-known militias that are allegedly kidnapping and killing based solely on the sect of their victims.

Recent provincial council elections point to Iraq's ability to take another path towards peace and stability. On 20 April more than 6 million Iraqi voters, of which 3 million were women, went to cast their votes in 12 of Iraq's 18 provinces. I am pleased to report that the day was marked by an acceptable turnout rate, averaging more than 50 per cent on a national basis.

I am reassured by the fact that the elections that were postponed in Anbar and Ninewa were finally held on 20 June. I was heartened to see voters head to the polls despite the existence of threats of violence and attack.

As the newly elected representatives form their local Governments, I hope that this process will soon translate to tangible improvements in the lives of citizens.

Taken together, the elections on 20 April and 20 June were the first elections that Iraqis managed completely by themselves. I would like to therefore congratulate the Chairman, Commissioner and staff of the Independent High Electoral Commission for the professional manner in which they supervised, organized and conducted the elections.

I am also pleased to report that Arab-Kurdish relations, which had reached their own crossroads, are now once again on the path towards improvement. That is best characterized by the bold decisions that both leaderships have taken. Reciprocating a visit by the Kurdistan region's Prime Minister Barzani on 29 April, Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki went to Erbil on 9 June and held a session of the council of ministers. A few days ago, President Massoud Barzani travelled to Baghdad to meet with Prime Minister Al-Maliki, Speaker Usama Al-Nujaifi and other political leaders. Those mutual visits are an encouraging sign of leadership and statesmanship on both sides.

Seven joint Baghdad-Erbil committees are now negotiating unresolved and crucial matters, including the federal budget, the oil and gas law, disputed boundaries and security arrangements. I would like to reiterate our strong support for those efforts, as they are proof that differences can be bridged only through direct dialogue. I therefore wish to renew UNAMI's offer to assist at any stage. In particular, UNAMI's role in resolving the situation in the disputed internal boundaries is at the core of our mandate. I am afraid not much could be achieved during my tenure.

Similarly, I am encouraged by the intentions of all components in Kirkuk to hold elections there. I sponsored a number of meetings in Baghdad and Kirkuk in order to bridge differences among the components. We continue to offer our good offices in that regard.

I welcome the decision to hold the parliamentary and provincial elections in the Kurdistan region on 21 September. I urge Kurdistan region authorities to complete all preparations for conducting the elections without further delay. On 30 June, however, the Kurdistan regional Parliament decided to postpone presidential elections for two years. That is a matter of concern. Elections are the backbone of democracy. UNAMI supports regular and timely elections at all levels.

The improvement in Iraq's regional relations is best highlighted by the great strides the country has made

towards restoring the international standing it had before 1990. I would like to commend the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait on their determination to complete the boundary maintenance project in a timely manner and to form a successor bilateral technical arrangement, bringing closure to resolution 833 (1993).

By receiving the funds set aside with the United Nations for the compensation of Iraqi private citizens whose assets remained on Kuwaiti territory after the demarcation, the Government of Iraq was able to bring closure to resolution 899 (1994). UNAMI is looking forward to implementing resolution 2107 (2013), which transferred the obligations on missing Kuwaitis, third-country nationals and Kuwaiti property, including national archives, to the Mission. I similarly commend the visit of His Highness Prime Minister Al Sabah on 12 June to Baghdad, which resulted in the signing of a number of bilateral agreements in various areas. I am confident that both Governments have now ushered in a new era of cooperation.

The violence in Iraq cannot be separated from the civil war in Syria. The battlefields are merging. Iraqi armed groups have an increasingly active presence in Syria. As such, the Syrian conflict is no longer only spilling over into Iraq. Instead, it has spread to Iraq, since Iraqis are reportedly taking up arms against each other in Syria and in Iraq. That violence could easily spiral out of control if it is not speedily addressed. The Syrian conflict is having an impact on Iraq through the continued influx of refugees. As of 7 July, more than 160,000 Syrian refugees had been registered in Iraq, the majority in the Kurdistan region. A particularly urgent situation is arising at the Domiz camp in the Kurdistan region. The growing number of refugees entering the region has led to overcrowding at the camp. Domiz has a capacity of 28,000, but it is now housing some 42,000 people.

In order to respond to the Syrian crisis, Iraq's United Nations humanitarian agencies have issued the fifth Syria Regional Response Plan, amounting to $310 million, which will cover humanitarian operations until the end of this year. I call on Member States to contribute to this financial appeal and meet the humanitarian needs of the refugees. I would like to commend the Governments of Iraq and the Kurdistan region for what they have done so far for the Syrian refugees. I call on the central and Kurdish authorities to extend their generosity and hospitality by providing more resources and additional land needed for Domiz.

I would also like to draw the Council's attention to the issue of border closure with Syria, which has increasingly limited protection space for those in need. Since March 2013, however, the crossing points have been completely closed, preventing Syrians from seeking refuge in Iraq. I appeal to the Government of Iraq to reopen the border as quickly as possible.

The factors of instability I have mentioned are having a direct impact on the lives of Iraqis, especially in the area of human rights, one of grave concern for us. The worsening security situation is preventing many Iraqis from living a secure life, as anyone should. As the people of Kirkuk observed the holy month of Ramadan, dozens have been killed in cold blood as they celebrated Ramadan in crowded cafés. I strongly condemn the brutal terrorist attacks that have killed hundreds of people in the past two weeks. The legacy of that conflict is prevalent throughout society. For children, it has left one in three deprived of many basic services and fundamental rights. It is an area where grave violations continue.

Minorities have also fallen victim to targeted acts of violence, including murder and kidnapping for ransom. In the last few weeks and months there have been specific atttacks on Yezidi, Christian and black Iraqi communities. No element has been spared. On 25 June, two suicide bombers in Tuz Khormato caused casualties among members of the Turkmen minority. Among those killed were two Turkmen leaders.

At the same time, UNAMI continues to learn about abuse, mistreatment and torture in prisons, especially in facilities under the Ministry of Interior — an area that has come into greater focus because it is covered under the demonstrators' demands. On 16 April, Iraq executed 21 persons convicted under its anti-terrorism law. I am encouraged that no further executions have taken place since last April. Once again, I appeal to the Government to declare a formal moratorium on implementation of the death penalty.

I would now like to turn to the issue of Camp Ashraf and Camp Hurriya temporary transit locations. Looking back at the end of my tenure, we have come a long way. A major crisis was defused in December 2011. Since then, almost all residents of Camp Ashraf have been relocated to Camp Hurriya. Of the residents, 1,600 have been recognized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as persons in need of international protection, and 135 have been relocated to safe countries. Together, we have left

no stone unturned in our quest to find a humanitarian solution, made possible through persistent negotiations among all concerned.

I thank the Government of Iraq for its constructive approach and understanding. I know it is not yet satisfied with the overall success so far, but major bloodshed may be averted. I am also grateful to the residents of Camp Ashraf and Camp Hurriya and their leaders. I have always understood their feelings. It is hard for them to leave a place where they have spent most of their adult life — Camp Ashraf. I recall my many meetings with the Mojahedin-e Khalq leadership in Paris, and the more than 60 hours of negotiations needed to bring about the voluntary and peaceful relocation of all but 100 residents. Throughout the process, the world of propaganda was one side of the coin. The other was consistent, confidential and constructive talks behind the scenes. My thanks also go to the United States and the European Union for their support.

Allow me to add four brief remarks on the topic. First, our main concern is the security of Camp Hurriya residents. On 9 February and 15 June, the camp was attacked by rockets. I strongly condemn the attacks. Ten residents were tragically killed and 71 others wounded as a result. The Government is still investigating the incidents. Under the memorandum of understanding, the Government of Iraq is exclusively responsible for the security and safety of the residents. I have repeatedly reminded the Iraqi authorities at the highest levels, both in writing and orally, to fulfil the camp residents' requests for additional protective measures. Unfortunately the Government has not yet fully responded to them.

Secondly, the situation in Camp Ashraf remains tense. The remaining 100 residents are not willing to leave the camp without resolution of the property question. In the meantime, the Government has taken legal steps to evict the remaining residents and address the property question, and has requested the residents to nominate lawyers to represent them in the legal proceedings. The residents, however, have failed to do so.

Thirdly, the Governments of Albania and Germany have offered to relocate 210 and about 100 residents, respectively, to their countries. The relocation to both countries has started, and I would like to thank both Governments for their generosity in offering relocation opportunities. We are, however, still looking to relocate 90 per cent of the residents. There is no peaceful solution other than relocation to countries outside Iraq, and I appeal to all Member States to consider taking in the remaining residents. However, relocation to third countries requires the cooperation of Camp Hurriya residents with UNHCR. Since the terror attack of 9 February, Camp Hurriya residents have been boycotting interviews with UNHCR. As a result, UNHCR is readjusting its presence and will keep a reduced workforce in case the residents decide to restart the process and start cooperating, but also to allow for the possibility that additional countries will come forward with relocation offers.

Of increasing concern are the human rights abuses in Camp Hurriya itself by the camp leadership. Hundreds of daily monitoring reports suggest that the lives of Camp Hurriya residents are tightly controlled. A significant number of residents have reported to United Nations monitors that they are not free to leave the Camp, to participate in the resettlement process offered by UNHCR, to contact family members outside Iraq, or to have contact with other relatives even within the Camp itself. Some residents reported that they had been denied access to medical treatment by the residents' leaders. Others reported having been subjected to verbal and other forms of abuse for disagreeing with the resident leaders or for expressing the wish to leave the Camp.

I urge the Camp leadership to fully respect the rights of the residents, to let those residents to leave the Camp if they wish to do so, to allow their freedom of movement within the Camp without supervision, and to permit residents to have free and unimpeded access to unsupervised telephone calls, email communications and internet access. Also, the Camp leadership does not allow unsupervised conversation with United Nations monitors. Some residents have reported to United Nations monitors that they face severe consequences for attempting to contact United Nations monitors without the permission of the resident leadership. I am also disappointed that United Nations monitors are often abused. Our colleagues do not deserve to be spat at. Our commitment is a humanitarian one. I call upon Camp Hurriya residents to accept our extended hand to help them pursue a new life. I would like to renew my call for all parties to continue to be patient and to find a peaceful resolution to outstanding issues.

At the end of my tenure in Iraq, I would like to conclude with some personal observations. A striking feature about Iraq and its people is that Iraqis are

enjoying new-found freedoms despite all of the violence. I have intentionally chosen the memorial in Halabja as the destination of my first and one of my last visits outside of Baghdad as a symbol and reminder that the atrocities of dictatorship must never come back; as a symbol and reminder that the future of Iraq lies in peaceful coexistence; and as a symbol and reminder that choosing the right path now can ensure peaceful conditions for tomorrow.

Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkomans, Assyrians, Christians, Shabak, Sabean Mandaens, Yezidis and others have all experienced suffering that will not and cannot be forgotten and must never be repeated. I know most Iraqis look to the future, and away from the past. They should embrace all of their communities as part of a peaceful coexistence. To ehlp them do so, I would like to highlight four principles I deem important at the end of my tenure.

First, the Constitution should be upheld and implemented in full. The first articles of the Iraqi Constitution emphasize the need to protect the country's diversity and federalism. This is why Iraqis must return to the Constitution as the political framework for resolving all prevailing conflicts.

Secondly, Iraq's resources should be utilized efficiently and distributed equitably. Iraq is now the third largest oil exporter and the second largest oil producer of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The country's vast natural resources are like a trust fundamental — gold literally lying underfoot. However, Iraq needs to efficiently manage and share the revenues of its hydrocarbon resources. This is critical to Iraq's economic growth, social development and political stability. To ensure that all Iraqis benefit, I call on the central Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to agree on the oil and gas and revenue-sharing laws without further delay.

Thirdly, the environment should be protected. Iraq lies at the centre of the sand and dust storms that are damaging the well-being of its population and its economy. Its neighbours suffer equally. As such, I welcome the launch of the United Nations Environment Programme's new regional programme to combat sand and dust storms. I would also like to welcome Prime Minister Al-Maliki's high-level initiative to set up a national commission to combat sand and dust storms in Iraq and to facilitate regional cooperation on this matter. It is imperative to reverse the environmental degradation in Iraq and the region now.

My last point is that women represent more than half of the Iraqi population, but insecurity, discrimination and other factors still reduce the opportunities Iraqi women have to rebuild their country. I call on the Government to scale up and implement a national policy on women. Peace and progress will be achieved in Iraq only if both men and women can live without the fear of violence. Deeds have to follow words.

The depth of my concern for Iraq's young people is now a familiar topic to the Council. I would like to raise the issue of their plight with more urgency than ever. I have spoken of the devastating death toll that Iraq has seen in past months. Terror and violence have a deep and troubling impact on young people. Iraq has now seen decades of conflict and fear. Yet another generation is confronted with trauma and bloodshed.

The traumatized children and young people of today are the traumatized adults of tomorrow. Insecurity is just one of the reasons they feel powerless. Young Iraqis want education and opportunities, but cannot find jobs. Young Iraqis are dynamic and political, but have no representation and no platform to raise their voices. Fear, frustration, helplessness — these feelings plague the youth of Iraq and run contrary to the spirit of hope, optimism and ambition that fuels their deep belief in their country. Young Iraqis seek a better life abroad because hope and optimism are fading. I believe that they would stay if they could just have a chance to shape their own futures in the land where they were born. Leaders need to act now to keep the promising young population in Iraq. The national youth strategy should not remain a piece of paper, but must be filled with life.

I would like to conclude with a final appeal to the Council and the international community. As upheaval and uncertainty sweep through the Middle East, it is high time that the international community and regional actors develop a vision for the whole region. The direness of the situation requires that the international community dedicate far more attention to the region as a whole, as developments are interrelated.

I wish to thank the Government of Iraq for its cooperation during 2013, as in the years before. I also wish to place on record my deep thanks to the Security Council for its continued support. But at the end of my tenure, my special thanks go to our team of the United Nations family, UNAMI and the country team, the hundreds of dedicated men and women who work in Iraq under extremely difficult circumstances, in a

violent environment. My admiration goes to each and every single one of them for their dedicated work — the support staff, air operators and engineers, cooks and cleaners, computer specialists and security personnel, without whom we cannot fulfil our political, human rights and development mandate.

I leave with a feeling of professional and human satisfaction. A great deal of ground has been covered during the past years, but a great deal still needs to be done. UNAMI's role is more important than ever. I count on my colleagues to pursue the Mission's mandate with the same level of professionalism and dedication. I wish my successor the best of luck.

I have tried to take the mandate the Council entrusted to me seriously — to advise, support and assist the people and the Government of Iraq. My last words go to the people of Iraq, to whom I wish a future of peace, prosperity and well-being.

The President: I thank Mr. Kobler for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Alhakim (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, for his tremendous efforts in helping the people and Government of Iraq as head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). We wish Mr. Kobler continued success in his future endeavours and express our appreciation to the entire team that worked with Mr. Kobler in Baghdad and New York.

After reviewing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/408) on the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), I would like to make the following observations. I have the honour to convey to the Council the desire of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to extend the mandate of UNAMI for another year on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The efforts of the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait have been successful in resolving outstanding issues, especially with regard to missing persons of Kuwaiti and other nationalities and locating their remains, as well as the issue of the national Kuwaiti archives, and has found a legal arrangement for the continued search for those missing and their remains in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. The efforts of both countries and the United Nations resulted in the adoption of resolution 2107 (2013).

UNAMI has played a positive and effective role in Iraq in bringing together the various viewpoints of the Iraqi political entities and contributing to the success of the Governing Council elections in Iraq, which took place peacefully and without incident. The Government of the Republic of Iraq also hopes for UNAMI's assistance in providing the logistical means to secure a sufficient number of observers to ensure transparency in the parliamentary elections that are scheduled to be held in the first half of 2014.

In accordance with the democratic approach adopted by the Iraqi Government, elections for governorate councils were held on 20 April in 12 governorates, and on 20 June in the governorates of Ninewa and Anbar. The elections resulted in the citizens of Iraq choosing their representatives for local government in a fair and transparent manner, in accordance with international standards, in cooperation with UNAMI and under the supervision of the Independent High Electoral Commission and representatives of political blocs. The elections were successful, thus paving the way for the success of the upcoming parliamentary elections next year. This will be a further step in the democratic process drawn up by Iraqis for the peaceful transfer of power through the ballot box. As a result, newly elected governors have formed the new governorate councils.

With regard to protests by citizens in a number of Iraqi cities, the Government has affirmed that peaceful protest is a right guaranteed to all Iraqis so that they might peacefully express their views, as stipulated in the Constitution. The Government has worked assiduously from the start to meet the legitimate demands of the demonstrators, has dealt with these demands positively, in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution, and has in fact met many of these demands.

With regard to Camp Hurriya, my Government condemns the recent shelling of the camp by terrorist groups and militias, which led to several casualties and injuries. That was part of the wave of terrorism that struck the entire country. My Government reaffirms the importance of protecting camp residents and providing them with the necessary humanitarian aid and health care. The Government has provided cement structures to protect residents from any future attacks.

We welcome the decision of the Government of Albania to resettle 210 residents from the camp, and

welcome the arrival of the first group of 71 individuals in Albania. We also welcome the offer of the German Government to resettle 100 residents of the camp.

In line with the Government's intentions to further develop Iraq's human and social resources, we have joined the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and annulled our reservation on paragraph 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, thus entitling children born to Iraqi mothers to the right of Iraqi nationality.

In conclusion, I am pleased to convey to the Council the desire of the Government of Iraq that the mandate of the UNAMI be extended for one more year, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1770 (2007), in letter and in spirit, and that UNAMI continue to provide assistance and advice upon prior request by the Government of Iraq.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.